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DIASPORA : USA - 'King' James celebrates birthday with milestone in Lakers win **
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RCA : l'ONU condamne le meurtre de trois Casques bleus de la MINUSCA ** Bozizé dément sa
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vainqueur par son parti

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BURUNDI - Inhumation du dictateur HIMA BUYOYA Pierre à BAMAKO, MALI - Responsable
de plus de 2,5 Millions victimes BURUNDI sur une population actuelle de plus de 9 Millions
d'âmes dont la mort de feu S.E. Melchior NDADAYE, Président du BURUNDI | 10ème Session
Extraordinaire de la CEEAC consacrée à la CENTRAFRIQUE

RWANDA : UNAMID confirms closure of peacekeeping mission after 16 years ** Rwanda
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UGANDA : UPDF soldier arrested for shooting three people dead ** Uganda presidential candidate
Bobi Wine arrested

BOTSWANA : Botswana Launches National Space Program | **BURKINA FASO** : Roch Kaboré,
investi Président, appelle à « oser le changement »

SUDAN : Peacekeeping mission in Sudan's Darfur ends mandate after 13 years

ETHIOPIA : Ethiopia says ready to retaliate against Sudan but prefers negotiated settlement - New
Ethiopian attack on Sudanese army forces in El Gedaref

MADAGASCAR : La plateforme avec Rajoelina en tête dans les 6 provinces

SOUTH AFRICA : Parliament denies DA request for COVID-19 vaccine debate

ALGERIE : OPEP+: l'Algérie a joué un rôle pivot en 2020 pour rééquilibrer le marché

MAROC : Morocco accuses Algeria of 'spreading rumours' on Western Sahara

LIBYA : Russia's Lavrov warns against call to war by Libyan warlord Haftar |

CHINA : Le ministre chinois des AE se rendra en Afrique la semaine prochaine

SOURCES : caraibcreolenews.com, AFP, ANADOLU AGENCY, AFRICANEWS,
MONITOR, BURIKINA24, WIONEWS, LEFASO

***** DIASPORA *****

HAÏTI :

Haïti - Taïwan : Don de 1,000 tonnes de riz d'assistance alimentaire

<https://www.haitilibre.com/article-32605-haiti-taiwan-don-de-1-000-tonnes-de-riz-d-assistance-alimentaire.html>

Haïti - Taïwan : Don de 1,000 tonnes de riz d'assistance alimentaire

Mardi, dans le cadre de la Coopération haïtiano-taïwanaise, le Fonds d'Assistance Économique et Sociale (FAES) a réceptionné 1,000 tonnes de riz, un don de Taïwan (République de Chine), destiné à fournir une assistance alimentaire aux personnes démunies sur tout le territoire national à l'occasion des fêtes de fin d'année.

Le FAES a lancé cette semaine des opérations de distribution de kits alimentaires dans la région métropolitaine à plus de 5,000 personnes vulnérables habitant plusieurs quartiers des communes de Tabarre et de Cité Soleil entre autres à Fleuriot, Tabarre 27 et 52, Lakou Bertin, Belekou, Brooklyn, Canaan 3, distribution et qui s'étendront dans les 9 autres départements avec la livraison de rations sèches à plus de 20,000 citoyens nécessiteux.

Charles Ernest Chatelier, Directeur Général du FAES à exprimer sa gratitude envers Taïwan pour ce don inconditionnel qui va permettre au FAES de poursuivre ses distributions auprès des plus démunis HL/ HaïtiLibre

GUADELOUPE :

Il rentre de vacances en Guadeloupe avec plusieurs sachets de cocaïne dans l'estomac

<https://la1ere.francetvinfo.fr/guadeloupe/il-rentre-de-vacances-en-guadeloupe-avec-plusieurs-sachets-de-cocaine-dans-l-estomac-906286.html>

Un Guadeloupéen de 27 ans a été condamné à 3 ans de prison ferme dans les Yvelines, en Île de France. Après un séjour dans le département, il avait ramené dans l'Hexagone, 155 g de cocaïne d'une valeur marchande de 12 000 €. Il avait voyagé avec la drogue dans son estomac.

Une mule guadeloupéenne a été condamnée à 3 ans de prison ferme à Versailles, en région parisienne. Il est également interdit de séjour dans les Yvelines, pour une durée de 5 ans.

Un contrôle de routine

C'est un banal contrôle de police qui a donné lieu à cette découverte, selon le site 78actu. Dans la nuit du 17 au 18 décembre, les policiers de la brigade anticriminalité de Versailles sillonnent les rues de la ville et tombent sur une voiture avec à son bord trois personnes dont un couple, en totale infraction du couvre-feu en vigueur outre-atlantique, depuis le 15 décembre.

Les agents découvrent 100 grammes de résine de cannabis dans un colis que deux des passagers avaient tenté de dissimuler.

Peu de temps après, les enquêteurs se rendent au domicile du couple. Dans une boîte à chaussures, ils trouvent 13 bonbonnes de cocaïne, soit 155 grammes, 4 000 euros et deux carnets de comptabilité.

Il voulait "juste se faire un peu d'argent"

Le jeune homme de 27 ans est poursuivi et passe rapidement aux aveux. Il explique qu'il a ramené la drogue après un séjour en Guadeloupe, dont il est originaire. C'est là qu'il achète la drogue, pour un montant avoisinant les 2 500 euros. Il coupe la drogue et en fait des petits paquets qu'il ingère,

pour voyager. Selon une source proche de l'affaire interrogée par 78actu, la cocaïne pure à près de 50% aurait pu lui rapporter 12 000 euros à la revente.

Jugé, le Guadeloupéen face à la présidente du tribunal se défend d'être un trafiquant, affirmant avoir juste voulu se faire un peu d'argent. Il a finalement été condamné à 3 ans de prison, avec incarcération immédiate, et une interdiction de mettre les pieds dans les Yvelines durant 5 ans.

MARTINIQUE :

Vaccin anti-Covid 19 en Martinique : les premières injections débutent mi-janvier 2021 pour les personnes fragiles

<https://la1ere.francetvinfo.fr/martinique/vaccin-anti-covid-19-en-martinique-les-premieres-injections-debutent-mi-janvier-2021-pour-les-personnes-fragiles-906324.html>

La campagne de vaccination contre le coronavirus commence dans l'hexagone ce dimanche 27 décembre 2020 dans quelques établissements pour personnes âgées, sur la base du volontariat. En Martinique, le CHU se prépare pour la première phase à partir du 15 janvier 2021 dans ses EHPAD. Après autorisation de l'Union Européenne et l'avis favorable de la Haute Autorité Sanitaire (HAS), les premières injections du vaccin Pfizer et BioNTech contre le coronavirus débutent en France continentale, ce dimanche 27 décembre 2020.

Il sera administré dans un premier temps à quelques personnes âgées volontaires jugées fragiles. Idem en Martinique, où le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Fort-de-France attend près de 100 milles doses dans les jours qui viennent, lesquelles seront stockées à -80 degrés dans un congélateur spécial.

Les premières piqûres sont prévues entre le 15 et le 30 janvier 2021, "avec le consentement" des patients ou de leurs proches (..)

CARAÏBES :

Amérique Latine : Le MERCOSUR doit négocier la dette des pays en développement

<http://www.caraibcreolenews.com/index.php/caraibes/item/17846-amerique-latine-le-mercosur-doit-negocier-la-dette-des-pays-en-developpement>

La Paz. Samedi 26 décembre 2020. CCN/Bolivarinfos/Françoise Lopez/ (Prensa Latina). Le président de la Bolivie, Luis Arce, a proposé mercredi aux membres du Marché commun du Sud (Mercosur) de demander aux pays développés et aux organismes financiers la remise de la dette des pays en voie de développement.

Le chef d'État a affirmé lors du sommet virtuel de cet organisme, dont la Bolivie est un pays partenaire en voie d'adhésion, que cette mesure atténuerait la crise économique provoquée par la pandémie de la Covid-19.

Arce a suggéré la mise en place d'une table de négociation avec les pays en développement qui permette une stratégie avec des options, des délais, des conditions financières, une restructuration, la remise ou le report du paiement des dettes.

Le président bolivien a estimé que cette demande devrait immobiliser les paiements du service de la dette, permettre de créer un fonds de crédits et d'accéder à des crédits souples et à des sources de financement externe.

À cette fin, il a préconisé la création d'un forum mondial sur la dette extérieure et la crise économique dans le cadre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (ONU).

Le mandataire bolivien a proposé que ces négociations soient présentées par des organismes multilatéraux auprès de créanciers et de gouvernements avec lesquels des dettes bilatérales sont contractées.

L'initiative bolivienne s'appuie sur les recommandations du rapport de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable de l'Agenda 2030.

Le secrétaire général de l'organisation mondiale, António Guterres, a averti que l'Amérique latine pourrait connaître en 2021 une crise majeure de la dette souveraine en raison de la forte dépense publique des pays pour faire face à la pandémie de Covid-19.

Venezuela : Des policiers de Trinidad et Tobago se livrent au trafic de Vénézuéliens
<http://www.caraibcreolenews.com/index.php/caraibes/item/17824-venezuela-des-policiers-de-trinidad-et-tobago-se-livrent-au-traffic-de-venezueliens>

Caracas. Lundi 21 décembre 2020. CCN/Bolivarinfos/Françoise Lopez. Les membres de la police de Trinidad et Tobago participent au trafic et à la traite des êtres humains au Venezuela et seuls quelques fonctionnaires ont été arrêtés pendant ces 8 dernières années alors que plus de 2 douzaines sont l'objet d'une enquête pour leurs liens présumés avec ces délits.

C'est ce que révèle une enquête du consultant en migrations spécialiste de la traite d'êtres humains Cleophas Justine Pierre. Son document diffusé par le blog La Tabla, indique que seulement en 2019 quelques 17 136 Vénézuéliens ont été amenés illégalement à Trinidad et Tobago.

Les officiers de police du pays « achètent des femmes pour qu'elles deviennent des esclaves sexuelles ou des prostituées. Ils leur offre leur protection, un guide et de la logistique sur l'île, » dit La Tabla. Dans certains cas, Trinidad et Tobago est une escale et les organisations criminelles amènent les femmes aux Etats-Unis et au Canada.

Avec l'intensification de la guerre multiforme contre le Venezuela qui a surtout affecté l'économie du pays, la population est redevenue vulnérable et peut à nouveau tomber dans les réseaux internationaux de trafic d'êtres humains.

L'enquête de Justine Pierre montre que dans l'état du Delta Amacuro, au nord-est du pays, le nombre de personnes disparues à cause du trafic illégal est passé de 1042 en 2011, à 8 568 en 2019. La capitale, Tucupita, est le noyau de ces disparitions : le nombre de victimes est passé de 932 en 2011 à 7 250 en 2019.

La Tabla écrit que « l'étude sur la traite d'êtres humains en 2019 comprend les 15 pays des Caraïbes qui font partie du CARICOM. Les epicentres de la traite dans la région sont le Venezuela, Haïti, la République Dominicaine, le Nicaragua et Trinidad et Tobago. Entre 80 000 et 120 000 personnes sont victimes de ce trafic chaque année. traduction Françoise Lopez pour Bolivar Infos

Venezuela : Information mensongère sur le programme mondial d'aliments
<http://www.caraibcreolenews.com/index.php/caraibes/item/17823-venezuela-information-mensongere-sur-le-programme-mondial-d-aliments>

Caracas. Lundi 21 Décembre 2020. CCN/Bolivarinfos/Françoise Lopez. Le chancelier de la République Bolivarienne du Venezuela, Jorge Arreaza, a condamné dimanche les nouvelles informations mensongères diffusées par les agences de presse qui affirment que le Gouvernement du président Nicolás Maduro empêche le Programme Mondial d'aliments d'entrer dans le pays. Dans un message publié sur Twitter, Arreaza évoque une information publiée par l'agence de presse Bloomberg qui dit que « le président Nicolás Maduro serait en train de bloquer un accord destiné à

permettre à l'agence des Nations Unies pour les aliments d'amener de l'aide au Venezuela en insistant pour contrôler sa distribution. »

Le diplomate vénézuélien a déclaré que le Gouvernement bolivarien est en train de discuter et que « nous souhaitons atteindre un accord qui respecte les principes et nos lois. »

traduction Françoise Lopez pour Bolivar Infos

Amérique Latine : Les peuples de l'Abya Yala demandent la levée du blocus du Venezuela

<http://www.caraibcreolenews.com/index.php/caraibes/item/17822-amerique-latine-les-peuples-de-l-abya-yala-demandent-la-levée-du-blocus-du-venezuela>

Amérique latine. Lundi 21 Décembre 2020. CCN/Bolivarinfos/Françoise Lopez. La rencontre des peuples et des organisations de l'Abya Yala pour la construction d'une Amérique plurinationale s'est achevée samedi. Les participants ont approuvé une déclaration en faveur de la justice pour les peuples originaires, les pays de la région et la Terre Mère qui condamne la décision des Etats-Unis de faire coter en bourse l'eau.

« Etre coté en bourse, c'est donner un prix à la vie ! L'eau ne peut pas être commercialisée, ne peut pas être dans des mains privées. L'accès à l'eau est un droit des peuples, » dit la déclaration.

En plus, le document appelle les peuples et les organisations de l'Abya Yala à empêcher l'impérialisme de privatiser cette ressource naturelle et à prendre leurs responsabilités en préservant la source de la vie « que nous ont laissée nos ancêtres et la Pachamama. »

Les participants à cette rencontre ont également émis une seconde déclaration qui condamne le blocus du Venezuela par les Etats-Unis et affirment « leur soutien au peuple, au Gouvernement du Venezuela et à son président Nicolás Maduro Moros. »

Ils ont également mis en évidence leur « ferme rejet des actes d'ingérence de n'importe quel Etat ou organisation dans les affaires intérieures du Venezuela. » Le peuple vénézuélien « a le droit de défendre sa souveraineté et sa libre auto-détermination, » conclut le document.

A cette rencontre ont été évoqués des sujets qui intéressent les peuples originaires comme la création d'entreprises communautaires, la préservation des pratiques ancestrales de production des aliments, la décolonisation de la production de biens et de services de l'économie et de la monnaie, l'adoption d'un Etat plurinational en tant que politique latino-américaine et sauvegarder l'utilisation de la médecine traditionnelle.

traduction Françoise Lopez pour Bolivar Infos

Cuba : Le tracteur Magric 80.2, un produit cubain pour l'agriculture

<http://www.caraibcreolenews.com/index.php/caraibes/cuba/item/17767-cuba-le-tracteur-magric-80-2-un-produit-cubain-pour-l-agriculture>

La Havane. Samedi 21 Novembre 2020. CCN/Bolivarinfos/Françoise Lopez. Un prototype à propulsion arrière de 80 chevaux (cv), conçu pour effectuer des travaux de labourage, de culture, de fertilisation et de transport en général.

Holguin. – Le défi avait été lancé par le président Miguel Diaz-Canel lors de la dernière visite gouvernementale dans cette province. À cette occasion, lors d'un échange avec les dirigeants de l'entreprise mécanique Holguin Héroes del 26 de Julio (Holmecca), il leur avait dit : « Si vous concevez et fabriquez des tracteurs de transport de riz, pourquoi ne fabriquez-vous pas des tracteurs ? »

C'est ainsi qu'est né le prototype du Magric 80.2, un tracteur à propulsion arrière de 80 chevaux (cv), conçu pour effectuer des travaux de labourage, de culture, de fertilisation et de transport en général.

Juan Carlos Pargas, directeur de l'Unité d'entreprise de Base (ueb) Usine d'outils agricoles 26 Juillet, où le matériel automoteur a été assemblé, explique qu'ils ont profité de l'expérience acquise lors de la reconstruction des tracteurs yumz, dans les années 1990, et de la disponibilité des ressources liées à la fabrication des tracteurs. Dans leurs inventaires, ils disposaient du moteur, de la boîte de transmission et d'autres composants. Avec le schéma technologique à portée de main, il ne restait plus qu'à se mettre au travail.

« Cette machine se caractérise par un niveau d'intégration conforme à nos possibilités technologiques. C'est la raison pour laquelle environ 30 % des composants sont fabriqués dans le pays. Nous avons construit la carrosserie, la cabine, les roues avant, le pont directionnel, le système de levage et de remorquage, les pédales et d'autres éléments. »

Une fois l'équipement validé, ce qu'ils attendent dans l'éventuelle phase de production en série, davantage de pièces pourraient être fabriquées à Cuba, ajoute ce dirigeant expérimenté, pour qui l'obsolescence technologique palpable des installations industrielles dans la sidérurgie et d'autres secteurs doit être amortie par une plus grande créativité, une utilisation optimale du matériel disponible et des enchaînements productifs.

Fin connaisseur du contexte dans lequel il évolue, il souligne que l'industrie nationale est à même de fabriquer une partie des engrenages de transmission et des carters d'engrenage.

Parmi les acteurs concrets capables de contribuer au projet, il mentionne l'Entreprise oléo-hydraulique de Cienfuegos. « Elle peut fournir des pistons et d'autres éléments pour les systèmes hydrauliques. » (...)

JAMAICA :

Supermarkets championing gov't's eco-friendly plastic project

http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Supermarkets_championing_govts_eco-friendly_plastic_project?profile=1373

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Local supermarkets have joined the fight against poor plastic waste management by partnering with the Government through the 'Supermarket Plastic Recycling Scheme'.

These are among the most popular establishments where consumers purchase products packaged in single-use plastics, which are often improperly discarded in the environment.

The initiative, led by Recycling Partners of Jamaica (RPJ), aims to provide Jamaicans with convenient options for the sustainable disposal of PET/PETE and HDPE plastic waste.

The programme entails the establishment of drop off points at high traffic supermarkets and wholesales across the country for recyclable plastic items.

In January 2021, Joong Supermarket in Portmore, St Catherine, and L&M Meats and Grocery in Runaway Bay, St Ann will become the second and third designated sites respectively under the programme, with additional outlets come on board thereafter.

Director of Environmental Management and Conservation at the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Anthony McKenzie, said the project was piloted at Lee's Food Fair from October 1 to November 30, 2020, which resulted in the collection of over 5,000 pounds of plastics. He explained that the project, which is endorsed by NEPA, is intended to strengthen Jamaica's capacity to implement integrated waste management activities and reduce and manage plastic marine litter (...)

USA :

'King' James celebrates birthday with milestone in Lakers win

<https://www.namibian.com.na/97665/read/King-James-celebrates-birthday-with-milestone-in-Lakers-win>

LOS Angeles superstar LeBron James celebrated his 36th birthday Wednesday with another NBA milestone, scoring double-digit points for the 1,000th straight game in the Lakers' 121-107 victory over the Spurs in San Antonio.

James finished with 26 points to extend his already record streak of double-digit games in the regular season.

He sealed the milestone midway through the second quarter with a turnaround jump hook that gave the Lakers a 46-37 lead.

"I just try to live in the moment and just try to continue to get better with my game, try to get better with my teammates and try to just maximize when I'm on the floor," said James, who is in his 18th NBA campaign after leading the Lakers to the 2020 title in the league's quarantine bubble in Orlando.

"I've been blessed to play the game that I love for 18 years and hopefully I can continue to play at a high level," he said.

James' double-digit scoring streak began on January 6, 2007, when he was playing for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"It's a tribute to his tenacity level ... his commitment to excellence," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said before the game. "He deserves a lot of credit for being the consummate professional. His mental state along with his physical state really makes him really special."

Shortly after James reached the milestone, Popovich was ejected from the contest for arguing with officials.

Assistant Becky Hammon took over on the Spurs bench, becoming the first woman to direct a team in an NBA game.

Anthony Davis scored 20 points and pulled down nine rebounds for the Lakers, newcomer Dennis Schroder added 21 points and four assists.

Wesley Matthews had his best game since joining the champions, scoring 18 points off the bench as he made all six of his three-point attempts.

Humbled Heat bounce back

In early action, the Miami Heat rebounded from an embarrassing 47-point loss to Milwaukee with a 119-108 NBA victory over the Bucks.

The Heat didn't have to wait long for revenge as they hosted the Bucks for the second straight night. Goran Dragic came off the bench to lead Miami with 26 points, Bam Adebayo added 22 points, eight rebounds and 10 assists and Tyler Herro scored 21 points with a career-best 15 rebounds as the Heat rallied to stave off another home defeat.

The Bucks had dominated on Tuesday with an NBA-record 29 three-pointers in their 144-97 triumph.

The Bucks, fueled by a triple-double of 26 points 13 rebounds and 10 assists from two-time NBA Most Valuable Player Giannis Antetokounmpo, looked like making it two wins in a row when they led by 14 in the third quarter.

Donte DiVincenzo scored 15 points and Jrue Holiday added 13 for the Bucks, but the Heat rallied despite missing Jimmy Butler for the second straight game.

"You want to constantly develop some grit and toughness during the course of a long season, and our guys responded in an appropriate fashion," said Heat coach Erik Spoelstra, who acknowledged before the game that there was "a lot of anger and frustration" after the blowout loss on Tuesday.

"As well there should have been," he said.

In Brooklyn, Kyrie Irving scored 17 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and Kevin Durant added 33 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists as the Nets dealt the Atlanta Hawks their first defeat of the young season, 145-141.

Irving's late burst helped the Celtics withstand 30-point performances from Atlanta's Trae Young and John Collins.

Boston, powered by Jaylen Brown's career-high 42 points, defeated the Memphis Grizzlies 116-111. The Celtics led by 12 points after the opening quarter and took full control with a 17-0 scoring run in the second period.

Los Angeles Clippers star Kawhi Leonard, who missed two games with a mouth injury from an elbow to the face, returned in a protective mask to score a game-high 28 points in his team's 128-105 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers. - AFP

***** AFRIQUE DE L'EST ******

BURUNDI :

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<http://burundi-agnews.org/1993/burundi-inhumation-du-dictateur-hima-buyoya-pierre-a-bamako-mali/>

NECROLOGIE, JUSTICE, HISTOIRE – BAMAKO (MALI), Mardi 29 décembre 2020 – L’ancien DICTATEUR HIMA BURUNDAIS BUYOYA Pierre [<http://burundi-agnews.org/hima>] a été inhumé à la cathédrale de BAMAKO. Entouré de ses seuls proches.

Le Dictateur HIMA Burundais BUYOYA Pierre était responsable de plus de 2,5 Millions victimes BURUNDI sur une population actuelle de plus de 9 Millions d’âmes pendant son pouvoir illégitime par COUP D’ETAT MILITAIRE au BURUNDI [<http://burundi-agnews.org/genocide/burundi-mort-de-lancien-dictateur-hima-burundais-buyoya-pierre/>].

Toutefois, dicté par L’UBUNTU [<http://burundi-agnews.org/ubuntu>], après son décès à Paris le vendredi 18 décembre 2020 de COVID-19, S.E. NDAYISHIMIYE Evariste(Général Major), Président du BURUNDI, s’est entretenu avec la famille éprouvée du DICTATEUR : “J’ai discuté de la question de l’inhumation de Pierre Buyoya avec sa famille. Ma position est que chaque personne a le droit d’être inhumé sur la terre de ses ancêtres, grande fut ma surprise de voir que sa famille a agit autrement“.

Le Dictateur HIMA Burundais BUYOYA Pierre était le dernier acteur NEO-COLON Burundais important au service des USA, du VATICAN, de la FRANCE et de la BELGIQUE au BURUNDI. Tous des anciens ETATS ayant pratiqué soit L’ESCLAVAGE ou/et LA COLONISATION, des crimes contre l’Humanité. Bref, il s’agit d’une des pages les plus NOIRES du BURUNDI qui se tourne ...

[<https://youtu.be/RUZrkschwclK>]

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Mercredi 30 décembre 2020 | Photo : EJOHEZA NEWS

BURUNDI : 10ème Session Extraordinaire de la CEEAC consacrée à la CENTRAFRIQUE

<http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/burundi-10eme-session-extraordinaire-de-la-ceeac-consacree-a-la-centrafrique/>

AFRIQUE, SECURITE, DIPLOMATIE – GITEGA (Capitale du BURUNDI), Samedi 26 décembre 2020 – En compagnie de l’excellent Ministre burundais des Affaires Etrangère et de la Coopération au Développement, M. SHINGIRO Albert. S.E. NDAYISHIMIYE Evariste (Général Major), Président du BURUNDI, participait à la 10ème Session Extraordinaire de la Conférence des Chefs d’Etat et de Gouvernement de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l’Afrique Centrale – CEEAC, par Vidéoconférence à BRAZZAVILLE (CONGO). S’agissant d’apporter le soutien de la CEEAC au scrutin démocratique en République Centrafricaine RCA du dimanche 27 décembre 2020.

Étaient présents aux côtés du Président du BURUNDI : S.E. SASSOU N’GUESSO Denis, Président de la République du CONGO, Président en exercice de la Conférence des Chefs d’Etat et de Gouvernement de la CEEAC ; S.E. TOUADERA Faustin-Archange, Président de la RCA ; S.E. TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO Félix Antoine, Président de la République Démocratique du CONGO

RDC; et S.E. TEODORO OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO, Président de la République de GUINEE EQUATORIALE.

D'autres Etats-Membres (ANGOLA, TCHAD, RWANDA, CAMEROUN, GABON, SAO-TOME & PRINCIPE, et TCHAD) étaient présents, représentés par leurs Ministres des Affaires Etrangères. Des groupes armés, soutenus par le réseau de la FRANÇAFARIQUE, veulent empêcher ces élections législatives et Présidentielle. Les leaders de la CEEAC ont réfléchi à une solution pratique pour aider à la réalisation de ces scrutins. Ainsi venant en appui aux forces de sécurités centrafricaines, aidées en ce moment par LA RUSSIE.

Le BURUNDI dispose de Force de Paix ONUSIENNE en CENTRAFRIQUE. S.E. TOUADERA Faustin-Archange, Président de la RCA, en a profité pour louer le courage et la bravoure des casques bleus burundais. Invitant les participants à observer une minute de silence, en mémoire de 3 soldats burundais de la Mission des Nations Unies en Centrafrique MINUSCA, assassinés par des éléments non identifiés à DEKOA, en préfecture de KEMO, ce vendredi 25 décembre 2020.

S.E. NDAYISHIMIYE , avec son âme panafricaniste , et toujours habillé en ABACOST (à bas le costume), a appelé à la tenue des élections démocratiques à la date fixée en RCA [

<https://www.presidence.gov.bi/2020/12/26/rca-le-president-du-burundi-appelle-a-la-tenue-des-elections-aux-dates-fixees/>]. Voici le communiqué final : <https://www.presidence.gov.bi/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Communique%CC%81-final-Sommet-CEEAC-26-12-2020.pdf>

TANZANIE :

Mwinyi: Corrupt leaders be warned of consequences

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/mwinyi-corrupt-leaders-be-warned-of-consequences-3243242>

Dar es Salaam. Zanzibar president Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday warned civil servants over engaging in corrupt practices saying all those implicated would be immediately suspended to pave way for the investigations.

Dr Mwinyi issued the warning as he addressed officials, executives and civil servants during the Ethics and Human Rights Day celebrations.

He said after taking office, his government has taken various legal measures against leaders seen as being irresponsible and unethical.

This came after he toured various institutions, including ports, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital and the Zanzibar Urban Service Development Project (ZUSP).

“A public leader must do everything possible to be exemplary and avoid actions that could lead to suspicion,” he said.

He reiterated his resolve to deal with the perpetrators involved or suspected of engaging in corrupt practices and ethics violations.

He said he was pleased with the people’s support to the government and noted that anyone who would be accused and eventually found not guilty, would be reinstated and enjoy all the legal entitlements.

Dr Mwinyi said it was sad to see a report submitted to him by the Zanzibar Anti-corruption and Economic Crimes Authority (Zaeca), indicating serious embezzlements and theft of government property in the implementation of major projects.

However, he said he was pleased with the ongoing monitoring and urged all officials suspected of involvement in the embezzlement to give cooperation to the agency.

“I’m very impressed with the enthusiasm and willingness of Zaeca executives in the fight against corruption and embezzlement of public properties,” he said.

He said he was aware that the ongoing steps taken by the government would not please all people, hence urging them to be tolerant. He noted that there were a number of major projects that lacked proper accounting.

Dr Mwinyi said action would be taken against all those found involved in negligence, theft or embezzlement of public properties, reaffirming the government commitment to justice.

During the event, the Minister of State in the President's Office for Constitution, Justice, Public Service and Good Governance, Mr Haroun Ali Suleiman, called on the people to support the efforts of the President in strengthening good governance and fighting corruption.

Chairperson of the Public Servants Ethics Commission Asaa Ahmada Rashid said the commemoration was important as it raised awareness among the people about the concept of good governance and its principles, including the fight against corruption, human rights, accountability, transparency, integrity and the effect of a conflict of interest.

He said the strengthening of these principles will help communities to recognize and access basic rights to improve their well-being, reduce poverty as well as grow the economy.

The event was also attended by various national leaders including the First Vice President Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad, Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdalla, Chief Justice of Zanzibar Omar Othman Makungu and the Attorney General of Zanzibar Dr Mwinyi Talib Haji among others.

RDC CONGO :

RDC : Le Conseil de sécurité renouvelle le mandat de la MONUSCO

<https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique/rdc-le-conseil-de-s%C3%A9curit%C3%A9-renouvelle-le-mandat-de-la-monusco/2082202>

Le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies a approuvé, vendredi soir, la prorogation du mandat de la Mission de l'ONU en République démocratique du Congo (MONUSCO) pour une année supplémentaire, en déclenchant un désengagement de ce pays.

Selon une résolution adoptée avec 14 voix pour et une abstention (Russie), les membres du Conseil de sécurité ont décidé de prolonger le mandat de la MONUSCO jusqu'au 20 décembre 2021, conformément aux recommandations du Secrétaire général de l'ONU, Antonio Guterres, qui a affirmé dans son dernier rapport sur la RDC que la MONUSCO reste « très importante » pour le pays.

La prorogation du mandat de l'opération de paix onusienne s'étend également à sa brigade d'intervention « à titre exceptionnel et sans créer de précédent ni aucun préjudice aux principes convenus du maintien de la paix », souligne la résolution.

Le texte demande au secrétariat de l'ONU « d'envisager de réduire encore le niveau de déploiement militaire et la zone d'opérations de la MONUSCO en fonction de l'évolution positive de la situation sur le terrain, notamment dans les régions où la menace posée par les groupes armés n'est plus significative ».

Le Conseil fixe le plafond des effectifs en uniforme de la MONUSCO à 14.000 membres du personnel militaire, 660 observateurs militaires et officiers d'état-major, 591 policiers, et 1.050 membres des unités de police constituées.

Le nouveau mandat axe les priorités stratégiques de la MONUSCO dans la protection des civils et l'appui à la stabilisation et le renforcement des institutions étatiques en RDC ainsi que les principales réformes en matière de gouvernance et de sécurité.

Le Conseil souligne que la protection des civils « doit être prioritaire » dans les décisions à prendre sur l'utilisation des capacités et des ressources disponibles.

Ainsi, la MONUSCO devra concentrer ses efforts dans les provinces du Nord-Kivu (est), Sud-Kivu (Est) et Ituri (Nord-est) « où le conflit actif persiste ». La mission devra se retirer de la région du Kasai (centre) en 2021 et progressivement du Tanganyika (sud-est) en 2022.

Afin de permettre une « sortie responsable et soutenable », la résolution souligne la nécessité de transférer progressivement les tâches de la MONUSCO au gouvernement de la RDC, aux agences des Nations unies et à d'autres parties prenantes concernées.

Autrefois la plus grande mission de l'ONU dans le monde avec environ 20 000 hommes, la MONUSCO, présente en RDC depuis 20 ans, est passée à la troisième position.

Confrontée à des coupes budgétaires et au retrait de ses hommes, elle est dépassée par les missions déployées au Mali (MINUSMA) et au Soudan du Sud. Son budget annuel est d'environ un milliard de dollars.

RDC : l'armée lance des recherches pour retrouver un hélicoptère disparu

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5fec7beb778cf30017d8c315/>

Un hélicoptère des Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) a disparu après son décollage de l'aéroport de Niania, dans la province de l'Ituri.

Cet engin de l'armée quittait Bunia pour Kisangani accompagné d'un autre hélicoptère. Ces deux appareils avaient, à leur bord, des officiers de l'armée. Ils avaient pour mission de récupérer une délégation de l'Etat-major de la 3ème zone de défense qui devait effectuer une mission de service à Bunia et Beni.

Les deux engins volants ont quitté Bunia pour Niania sans difficulté, renseigne une source proche de l'armée. Elle indique que le premier a quitté Niania quelques minutes avant le second qui, jusque-là, demeure introuvable avec tous les membres de son équipage.

Le général Alengbia Nzambe, commandant second des opérations et renseignements de la troisième zone de défense a annoncé des recherches pour retrouver l'appareil disparu.

Une mission de survol de l'espace du lieu présumé du dernier contact avec le premier avion a été effectué l'avant-midi du 29 décembre. Une mission qui n'a pas apporté d'éclairage à l'armée. Mais le général Alengbia Nzambe promet de fixer l'opinion dès que l'armée entrera en possession d'éléments nouveaux sur cet engin. Dido Nsapu

Assemblée nationale : enfin la remise et reprise a eu lieu entre les bureaux Mabunda et Mboso

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5fecb1cf778cf30017d8c319/>

Annoncée comme reportée la journée, la cérémonie de remise et reprise au niveau de l'Assemblée nationale entre le Bureau sortant et entrant a finalement eu lieu ce soir.

La séance a eu lieu entre Boniface Balamage, 2ème Vice-président du bureau sortant et le président du bureau d'âge, Christophe Mboso N'kodia.

La présidente du bureau sortant, Jeanine Mabunda a été absente, représentée par son 2ème Vice-président, Boniface Balamage.

Pourtant, la journée, la cérémonie avait été reportée à une date ultérieure. Mais sans la soirée, les deux bureaux ont réussi à faire la passation des pouvoirs.

Pour rappelle, cette cérémonie avait été reportée plus d'une fois. Annoncée pour le 26 décembre, elle avait été reportée pour ce 30 décembre, avant d'être reportée puis organisée ce soir. Dido Nsapu

UGANDA :

UPDF soldier arrested for shooting three people dead

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/updf-soldier-arrested-for-shooting-three-people-dead-3243190>

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) has confirmed the arrest of one of their own who reportedly went on a rampage on Monday shooting three people dead and injuring three others in Nkondo village, Ryeru Sub County in Rubirizi District.

While addressing mourners in Nkondo village on Wednesday, the commander of 309 Brigade Lt Col James Kasule identified the suspect as Bobson Amutuhaire.

"We arrested him that evening from Rutoto Sub County trying to escape to his home in Sheema District. We are still interrogating him to find out why he walked about 8 kilometers to attack these members of the same family," he said.

Lt Col Kasule revealed that Amutuhaire first attacked and shot everyone in his 27 battalion before proceeding to attack the family in Nkondo village.

UPDF Second Division spokesperson Maj Charles Kabona said the suspect is being kept at the division headquarters as they carry on further investigations.

"He is the prime suspect in the murder and the investigating team is on the ground to find out more evidence to pin him. He faces murder and attempted murder charges before the court-martial," he said.

Maj Kabona apologised to the people of Rubirizi saying that the conduct of a soldier is not a reflection of the whole force, but rather individual mistakes.

Former Bunyaruguru County MP, Mr Cadet Benjamin, asked the army to bring court-martial to the area so that the locals can witness how the matter is being handled.

"For justice to prevail, we want court-martial to be brought on the ground so that people can see how the matter has been handled," he said.

Arrest of opposition, journalists not sign of pro-democratic security forces- US Mission

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/harassment-of-opposition-journalists-not-sign-of-pro-democratic-security-forces-us-mission--3243718>

Uganda's security forces don't look like they care about democracy, says US Mission | The United States of America Mission Uganda late Wednesday night condemned tense scenes revolving around what Police termed "restraining of opposition candidate Robert Kyagulanyi" - in what had largely been perceived as the opposition candidates' arrest.

"Wednesday's disproportionate deployment of force, seizure of a political party leader, group detentions are not the sign of security forces who care about democracy and the future of Uganda," the Mission tweeted.

The 35 worded statement from the US Mission points to relatively increasing failed diplomacy between security operatives and opposition candidates together along with journalists ahead of the 2021 elections.

National Unity Platform Platform (NUP) spokesperson, Mr Joel Ssenyonyi Wednesday night claimed party members were still under security forces' custody.

"The entire team that was with Hon Kyagulanyi in Kalangala is handcuffed and being driven in military trucks. Eddie Mutwe suspects they are being taken to Masaka Central Police station," said Mr Ssenyonyi.

He added; “Kyagulanyi is at his home in Magere but his home is surrounded by military personnel like it’s a barracks.”

His claims found backing with Bobi alleging on Thursday morning, "over 90 party members are being arbitrarily detained."

Relations between security forces on one side and opposition figures and journalists at the other end remain at odds with series of counter accusations.

Authorities have repeatedly accused Bobi Wine of holding massive rallies contradicting state Coronavirus guidelines.

On the other hand, opposition figures say application of the law only plays against them while incumbent President Museveni has on several occasions been sited with crowds further waning chances of fairness.

“These Covid-19 restrictions help just only Museveni and his desire to disrupt opposition activities,” Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party spokesperson Ibrahim Ssemujju has stated during press engagements.

Presidential campaign members of Ugandan musician-turned-politician, sit during their arrest on a road as the campaign was blocked by Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) in Kalangala district on December 30, 2020. PHOTO/AFP.

At least two journalists were yesterday arrested in Kalangala district while covering Bobi Wine, and later released in the latest wave of continued concerted attempts to clamp down on journalists covering rallies of opposition candidates.

“I am free. I have been released. The crime I was accused of is giving updates. #FreeJournalism,” BBS TV journalist Culton Scovia posted on social media immediately after her release.

Daily Monitor journalist Derrick Wandera was also detained for over 2 hours with security operatives releasing him after dismantling and shattering his mobile phone beyond repair.

Police, Wednesday night also disclosed intent to bar non-accredited journalists from covering electoral activities.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Maj. Gen. Paul Lokech- said the entity will effective December 31 enforce guidelines of the Uganda Media Council and added that the arrangement widely contested by media practitioners “will help Police accord journalist’s better protection over the remaining electoral process.” editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

Uganda presidential candidate Bobi Wine arrested - reports

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/uganda-presidential-candidate-bobi-wine-arrested-reports-3243652>

Uganda’s National Unity Platform (NUP) presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi, alias Bobi Wine, has been arrested.

Mr Kyagulanyi was arrested on Wednesday afternoon and was being driven to a police station in Kalangala Island area, according to the Daily Monitor.

The official Twitter account of the singer-turned-politician also announced the arrest.

“Bobi Wine and his entire campaign team arrested in Kalangala! Media blocked – Admin,” read a tweet on the handle.

The Monitor reports that efforts are currently underway to have the NUP candidate airlifted to Kampala from Kalangala Island.

However, police spokesperson, Fred Enanga said Mr Kyagulanyi was being transferred to his home in Magere, Wakiso district.

RWANDA :

UNAMID confirms closure of peacekeeping mission after 16 years

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/unamid-confirms-closure-peacekeeping-mission-after-16-years>

The joint United Nations-African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (UNAMID) will officially end operations on Thursday, December 31, when the Government of Sudan will take over responsibility for the protection of civilians in the area.

In a statement released on Wednesday, UNAMID confirmed the decision to close the mission, which followed the unanimous adoption of a Security Council resolution on 22 December, and progress made by the transitional Government of Sudan in addressing the conflict in Darfur.

Rwandan peacekeepers have been deployed to this mission since its creation in 2004.

In October, a milestone peace agreement was reached between the Sudanese authorities and two armed groups in Darfur, some two years after the Sudanese Revolution, which led to the overthrow of longstanding leader, Omar Al-Bashir, in April 2019.

Rwanda receives 130 African asylum seekers from Libya

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/rwanda-receives-130-african-asylum-seekers-from-libya-3243758>

Rwanda has received 130 more asylum seekers who were stranded in Libya. They will stay in Rwanda until they are resettled in other countries – mainly in Europe and North America.

The asylum seekers, mainly from Somalia, Sudan, and Eritrea, also have the option of applying for Rwandan citizenship or returning to their country of origin.

The refugees were evacuated to Rwanda following months of suffering in Libya, where they were stuck after a failed bid to migrate to European countries.

After the reception, the new batch will be taken to a designated transit hotel for Covid-19 tests before joining others in Gashora Emergency Transit Centre.

The group which arrived on Tuesday evening is the fifth batch Rwanda has received since September 2019.

The group brings to 510 the total number of refugees evacuated to Rwanda.

Rwanda rejects request to deport suspected Burundian coup plotters

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/rwanda-rejects-request-to-deport-suspected-burundian-coup-plotters-3242274>

Rwanda has reiterated its unwillingness to deport individuals accused of orchestrating the 2015 coup plot against former Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza.

Burundi handed over a list of names of individuals to Rwanda it wants to be deported — as a major condition for relations between both countries to thaw — but Rwanda has insisted that the individuals are considered as refugees who must be protected against deportation by international laws.

Both countries have not officially disclosed the names on the list.

“The so-called coup plotters ran to Rwanda as refugees, and we are bound by international norms in terms of handling refugees. So Rwanda cannot hand them back. We would be breaching international law,” Manasseh Nshuti, Rwanda’s State Minister for EAC Affairs told The EastAfrican.

“So I think Burundi should not be using this excuse of refugees. They also have our refugees but we are not asking them back. No government should be able to do that unless the person is not a refugee but is a criminal.”

The matter relates to the May 2015 failed coup against former president now deceased Pierre Nkurunziza, when army general Godefroid Niyombare and rebels attempted to depose him, while he was in Tanzania attending an EAC Summit.

Some reports at the time said Gen Niyombare had been arrested alongside others and charged with mutiny, but the Burundi government says he is "still on the run and his whereabouts are unknown." Rwanda said instead of deporting them, it is seeking to send them to a third country, a stance that did not go well with the Burundian government.

“What we want to do is to give them over to a third country where they can relocate far away from Burundi. But even without this, the individuals are not a threat to Burundi. They are not using Rwanda as a base to attack Burundi,” Mr Nshuti said. The Burundian government was not available by press time to comment, but previously, officials have said that they will continue to demand the international community to pressure Rwanda into deporting the individuals. “Justice is the only thing that will bring together Burundians and those perpetrators because the crimes were committed in Burundi, against Burundians so the Burundian judicial body should take care of it ... So what we call for is for international community to pressure Rwanda to respect international laws,” Jean Claude Karerwa Spokesperson of the Burundi Presidency said at a press conference last month. Burundi rejected the “third country” notion, noting that no other country is needed in the affairs of Rwanda and Burundi. “The President said that there is no mediator needed between Rwanda and Burundi because Rwanda and Burundi we are like brothers and sisters, we speak the same language we can discuss our problems without any mediator,” Mr Karerwa added.

KENYA :

Governor Nyaribo dissolves cabinet a day after being sworn in

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2020-12-30-nyamira-governor-dissolves-the-entire-cabinet/>

Nyamira County Governor Amos Nyaribo dissolved the entire cabinet on Wednesday evening.

The governor asked all the County Executive Committee Members to handover immediately.

The process comes a day after he was sworn in as governor on Tuesday.

This is the first process after he assumes office as the county boss.

More changes are expected as he has limited time to complete the various projects awaiting him in the next 18 months before the 2022 general elections.

Nyaribo was been sworn in as the second governor for Nyamira County.

He took over as the county boss after the death of John Nyagarama on December 18.

The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Nyamira Primary school in Nyamira town on Tuesday.

A number of leaders attended the event, including the Devolution CS Eugene Wamalwa, Council of Governors Chairman, and Kakamega governor Wycliffe Oparanya among others.

Nyaribo was sworn in by Nyamira High Court Presiding Judge Esther Maina.

SOUTH SUDAN :

NAS accuses South Sudanese army of grave human right breaches in Central Equatoria-calls-for-reconciliation/2079704

<https://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article70272>

December 28, 2020 (JUBA) - The National Salvation Front (NAS) Monday accused the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) of committing grave human rights violations against civilians in Central Equatoria state.

According to NAS spokesman Suba Samuel Manase the government forces in Loka West area of Yei county raped three women, maimed seven people, made members of Revival Community of Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) drink alcohol, looted properties and burned several huts. "These crimes are serious violations of Cessation of Hostilities agreement (CoHA) which aimed at protection of civilians and provision of unhindered access to humanitarian assistance," Manase said in a statement extended to the Sudan Tribune.

He further said that the government army is committing a similar human rights violation in Western Bahr el Ghazal State and killed innocent civilians without details.

The South Sudanese government, NAS, and its allies of SSOMA agreed to recommit themselves to the cessation of hostilities to create a suitable atmosphere for the political process mediated by the Sant'Egidio community.

The parties resumed direct talks in Rome earlier this month to reach a declaration of principles before to resume formal talks. A similar meeting is expected to take place in January with the SSOMA faction led by Paul Malong and Pagan Amum.

The IGAD and international community are pressing the signatories of the revitalized peace pact to implement the agreement which was clinched in September 2018, saying it would encourage the holdout groups to join it.(ST)

SUDAN :

U.S. hails passage of Sudan's sovereign immunity bill
<https://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article70279>

December 30, 2020 (KHARTOUM) - The United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo praised the bill passed last week by U.S. congress that reinstated Sudan's sovereign immunity.

Hamdok receives Pompeo at his office in Khartoum on 25 August 2020 (ST photo)

The bill which was signed into law by President Donald Trump was a product of the agreement between Khartoum and Washington on compensation for victims of certain terror attacks.

The \$335 million deal covers the 1998 twin embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania as well as the 2000 USS Cole attack near Yemen and the assassination of USAID employee in Khartoum on 2008 new years eve.

However, the enacted law excluded ongoing cases against Sudan related to 9/11 attacks after two senior democratic senators said they will not support the bill without this exception.

"The enactment of this legislation represents a fundamental change in Sudan's relationship with not only the United States but also the entire international community," Pompeo said in a statement.

"It removes a major impediment to Sudan's full reintegration into the global economy by reducing the risk of attachment of Sudan's assets, opening the possibility for substantially increased trade and investment" he added.

As part of the deal, Sudan was also removed from the U.S. list of states sponsoring terrorism which came after Khartoum agreed to normalize ties with Israel.

In return, the U.S. also boosted economic assistance to Sudan and agreed to help the latter in paying arrears due to international financial institutions.

Pompeo said that these developments were made possible "because of the courageous actions of the Sudanese people, who have placed their country on a path towards democracy and economic prosperity".

"The leadership of the civilian-led Transitional Government in delivering on the demands of the people of Sudan is integral to the success of this transition," the US top diplomat said.

"We commend the Sudanese people for their continued insistence on freedom, peace, and justice, and we congratulate Prime Minister Hamdok and the civilian-led Transitional Government for their courage in advancing both the aspirations of the people they serve and the cause of regional peace under the Abraham Accords".(ST)

Soudan : levée de l'immunité de soldats des forces de soutien rapide

<https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique/soudan-lev%C3%A9e-de-limmunit%C3%A9-de-soldats-des-forces-de-soutien-rapide/2092085>

Le Soudan a déclaré, mardi, que l'immunité de membres des forces de soutien rapide (FSR), soupçonnés d'avoir tué un civil, avait été levée.

Bahaa el-Din Nouri, âgé de 40 ans, aurait été enlevé par des membres de la Force de soutien rapide le 17 décembre dernier, dans le quartier de Kalakla, au sud de Khartoum. Son corps a été retrouvé à la morgue d'Omdurman quatre jours plus tard, ont rapporté les médias locaux.

La mort de Nouri a déclenché un tollé dans le pays, les partis politiques exigeant une enquête rapide sur cette affaire.

Dans un communiqué, le porte-parole de la FSR, Jamal Juma, a déclaré que les soldats concernés avaient vu leur immunité levée "et qu'ils avaient été déférés devant le ministère public pour finaliser les procédures d'enquête".

Lundi, le ministère public a accusé des membres de la FSR de meurtre avec préméditation après qu'une nouvelle autopsie ait révélé que Nouri avait subi de multiples blessures ayant entraîné son décès.

Par ailleurs, l'Association des professionnels soudanais (Syndicat), fer de lance des protestations qui ont conduit à l'éviction de l'ancien président Omar al-Bashir, a annoncé des protestations de masse si les autorités ne donnaient pas suite aux demandes d'enquête et de transparence concernant les centres de détention secrets.

La FSR est accusée d'avoir commis des violations contre des civils, dont la plus importante est le meurtre de dizaines de manifestants lors de la dispersion d'un sit-in devant le quartier général de l'armée à Khartoum, le 3 juin 2019.

*Traduit de l'Anglais par Mourad Belhaj

Sudan army: 'We regained control over 80% of our borderlands with Ethiopia'

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201231-sudan-army-we-regained-control-over-80-of-our-borderlands-with-ethiopia/>

The Sudanese army announced that it has regained control over 80 per cent of Sudanese territory previously seized by Ethiopian militias, stressing that: "The confrontations were against members of the Ethiopian army, not militias, considering the use of large-scale and long-range weapons."

Lieutenant General Khaled Abdin Al-Shami, deputy chief of staff of the Sudanese army, confirmed in statements that the army had regained 80 per cent of borderlands and took control of a large number of villages inhabited by Ethiopian militias. Al-Shami added that the operations would not stop until all Sudanese lands are recovered.

According to Al-Shami, the Sudanese army has reached sites that allow it to secure borders and farmlands in the areas of Al-Fashaqa Al-Kubra and Al-Fashaqa Al-Sughra, noting that: "The armed

forces have completely secured these areas and are ready to face any party contemplating attacks against them."

The Sudanese army has implemented all its planned operations in the border territory, although it has not yet reached the final borders, explained Al-Shami.

Major General Mohamed Ahmed Sabir, deputy head of the Military Intelligence Authority of the Sudanese army, announced on Tuesday that his country's forces have no hostile intentions towards Ethiopia. He confirmed that the Sudanese forces are moving: "With a sense of responsibility in the Sudanese border area to secure it as part of their routine work in accordance with the provisions of the constitution."

According to the official Facebook page of the Sudanese Armed Forces, Sabir affirmed: "The armed forces are still securing Sudan's borders to reclaim agricultural lands in its eastern borders with Ethiopia, the area of which is estimated to be over 2.5 million acres that were previously out of our control."

Meanwhile, the Sudanese Security and Defence Council held an emergency session on Tuesday evening, headed by Chairman of the Sovereignty Council Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, to discuss the developments in the eastern borders.

Abiy Ahmed: 'Recent incident on Sudan border will not break our relations with Khartoum'

In a statement, the Sovereignty Council welcomed: "The esteemed effort made by the armed forces in the Sudanese region of Al-Fashaqa to defend the territories and secure the borders."

Ashraf Abdelaziz, editor-in-chief of Sudanese newspaper Al Jazeera, said in an interview with Al-Hurra TV that he expects more confrontations between the two sides due to the current tension.

On the other hand, the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry confirmed that it would take steps to protect its sovereignty if Sudan did not stop what it described as "illegal activities" along the border.

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen accused Sudan of using the war in the Tigray region to advance towards Ethiopian territories.

Dina Mufti, a spokesperson for the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, told Al Jazeera TV that the government would step up its efforts to resolve the conflict that has erupted on the border between Ethiopia and Sudan, denying that his country warned Sudan about the border conflict.

Mufti added that Sudan is a brotherly country that Ethiopia can only advise, accusing a third party – which he did not name – of fuelling the dispute.

Ethiopian social media activists have accused Egypt of working actively and secretly to provoke a confrontation between Khartoum and Addis Ababa.

Egypt has not yet officially commented on the current tension between Sudan and Ethiopia.

On 19 December, Sudan announced sending massive military reinforcements to the borders with Ethiopia to "reclaim usurped lands from an Ethiopian militia in Al-Fashaqa area," reported Sudan News Agency (SUNA).

On Wednesday, Sudan and Ethiopia ended talks on the demarcation of the border in Khartoum, without announcing any decisions taken.

The border demarcation agreement between the UK and Ethiopia dates back to 1902, prior to Sudan's independence in 1956. Disagreements over this issue are still ongoing.

Peacekeeping mission in Sudan's Darfur ends mandate after 13 years

<https://www.dailysabah.com/world/africa/peacekeeping-mission-in-sudans-darfur-ends-mandate-after-13-years>

Sudan's hybrid United Nations-African Union mission in Darfur is set to end its 13-year peacekeeping operations in the conflict-marred region Thursday, even as recent violent clashes leave residents fearful.

"The joint United Nations-African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (UNAMID) will officially end operations on Thursday, when the Government of Sudan will take over responsibility for the protection of civilians in the area," the mission said in a statement Wednesday.

While the bitter conflict that began in 2003 and claimed 300,000 lives has largely subsided, tribal clashes last week left at least 15 people dead and dozens wounded. Citizens, many of whom remain displaced, have held protests in recent weeks against the mission's imminent departure.

"The lives of Darfuri people are at stake, and the United Nations should reconsider its decision," Darfuri Mohamed Abdelrahman told Agence France-Presse (AFP) at a sit-in at Kalma camp in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur.

According to The Associated Press (AP) in June, the council voted unanimously to move toward ending UNAMID, which has well over 6,000 military and police personnel and more than 1,500 civilian staffers, replacing it with a much smaller U.N. civilian mission. The Sudanese government has been pressing for UNAMID to end on Dec. 31, and Russia's deputy ambassador, Anna Evstigneeva, backed the end-of-year termination, as did Niger's U.N. ambassador, Abdou Abarry, speaking on behalf of South Africa, Tunisia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The U.N. said Wednesday that the phased drawdown will begin in January and take six months to complete.

Residents in Kalma protesting the mission's closure held up banners reading: "We trust U.N. protection for IDPs (internally displaced people)," and "We reject UNAMID's exit."

Sudanese authorities have said troops will be deployed to the region to contain any violence.

Darfur was the scene of a bitter conflict that broke out in 2003 between African minority rebels, complaining of marginalization, and forces backed by the government of now-ousted President Omar al-Bashir. The U.N. estimates the fighting displaced 2.5 million people. The conflict has largely subsided over the years, apart from occasional clashes between pastoralists and displaced people settled in camps.

In October, Sudan's transitional government signed a peace deal with a coalition of rebel and political groups, including from Darfur. The agreement covered pressing issues around security, land ownership, transitional justice, power sharing and the return of people who fled their homes due to fighting. It also provides for the dismantling of rebel forces and the integration of their fighters into the national army. Only two groups have refused to sign the accord, including the Darfur-based Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abdelwahid Nour, a faction which is believed to maintain considerable support.

Sudan's transitional government has agreed that al-Bashir will face the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. Al-Bashir, who was ousted in April 2019, was jailed in Khartoum's high-security Kober prison. In the October peace deal with rebels, Sudan's government agreed to set up a special court for crimes in Darfur where it was said al-Bashir should also stand trial.

ETHIOPIA :

Ethiopia says ready to retaliate against Sudan but prefers negotiated settlement

<https://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article70277>

December 29, 2020 (KHARTOUM) - The official spokesman of the Ethiopian foreign ministry threatened on Tuesday to retaliate against Sudanese cross border attacks in what he termed as Ethiopian territories but he later stated his government keenness to reach a negotiated settlement with Sudan.

"If Sudan does not stop expanding into Ethiopian territories, Ethiopia will be forced to launch a counter-offensive," Ambassador Dina Mufti told Ethio FM 107.8 radio, underscoring that the silence of his government should not be taken for weakness.

However, in a separate statement published in English on the same day, Mufti said his government is committed to reactivating the existing mechanisms to reach a negotiated settlement to the border issues.

"We believe that securitization and unnecessary escalation will only worsen the situation and create pointless tension in the border area and disrupt daily activities of our peoples living in the border area," he added in a long statement released by the Ethiopian foreign ministry.

In Khartoum, Sudanese officials say their forces acted within the international border with Ethiopia in line with the 1902 agreement.

They point out that the current conflict is inherited from the former president who allowed Ethiopian farmers to cultivate in the border area and latter ordered the evacuation of Sudanese army from the area after the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia and his reconciliation with Zenawi. Recently the two countries held a meeting in Khartoum, where the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister called to withdraw Sudanese troops and compensate the Ethiopian farmers citing vandalism and looting of their products.

The Sudanese cabinet affair minister who chaired the Sudanese delegation for his part stressed the need to demarcate the border first after what the two countries can reach joint cooperation agreement on the border area and discuss the presence of Ethiopian farmers inside the Sudanese territory.

In his statement, Mufti recalled recent statements Abiy Ahmed Ethiopian Prime Minister saying that "some parties seek to create tensions between Sudan and Ethiopia," without naming the alleged "conspirators."

The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry's statement closed by urging Sudan to recall the two countries' continued solidarity and insisting that "the issue can be solved through dialogue."

A Sudanese senior military official said on Tuesday that his country has no hostile intentions towards Ethiopia, emphasizing that the goal of the military operation on the eastern Sudan border is to retake control of 2.5 million acres of agricultural areas. (ST)

New Ethiopian attack on Sudanese army forces in El Gedaref

<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/new-ethiopian-attack-on-sudanese-army-forces-in-el-gedaref>

On Wednesday evening, Ethiopian army and militia forces shelled the site of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in Jebel Abu Tuyour in eastern El Gedaref. Sudanese army forces clashed with Ethiopian reconnaissance forces near Wad Kouli.

In a statement in Arabic on Thursday, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed accused parties he did not name of planning, financing and implementing the recent confrontations between Ethiopia and Sudan on the border areas. These parties want to distort the relations between the two countries, and sow doubts between the two governments, he said.

Ahmed affirmed his government's determination to stop the clashes at the border.

Sudanese acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Omar Gamareldin, emphasised the good relations with Ethiopia in an interview with Sky News Arabia on Thursday. There is only a difference of views on the border, he explained.

"Our borders with Ethiopia were demarcated in 1903, and are currently being renegotiated. We are bound by international laws and norms regarding resolving our border disputes with Ethiopia," he said. "Every problem has a solution. We are neighbours, and we know how to negotiate with each other. [...] When we are not able to obtain satisfactory solutions, the African Union is there."

The violent incidents occurred hours after border demarcation talks between Sudanese and Ethiopian government delegations in Khartoum concluded without an agreement. The negotiations reportedly failed because the Ethiopian delegation refused to recognise the 1903 border demarcation, saying that the British-Ethiopian treaty on the border was signed in colonial times. Since Sudan became independent in 1956, no clear demarcation of the 1,600-kilometre border with Ethiopia has been made. This has made it easy for Ethiopian militants to occupy fertile farmlands in eastern Sudan.

Occupied

Ethiopian army soldiers and militiamen earlier this week launched a series of attacks on the Sudanese part of the border area. The SAF said they recaptured territories in El Gedaref from Ethiopian forces.

Last week, four SAF troops were killed and 27 others were injured in eastern El Gedaref in an attack by Ethiopian forces.

Earlier this month, the Sudanese army regained control of Khor Yabis in El Fashaga. The area was occupied by Ethiopian militiamen (called shifta in the region) who cultivated by Ethiopian farmers for more than 25 years.

According to the El Fashaga Lands Committee, about 90 per cent of the lands in the border area of El Fashaga El Sughra has been occupied for years by the shifta.

Farmers in El Fashaga demanded in July that these lands be returned to them. The governor of El Gedaref supported them.

Ethiopia warns of counter-offensive against Sudan

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/ethiopia-warns-of-counter-offensive-against-sudan/2092655>

Ethiopia on Tuesday warned Sudan of counter-offensive measures following the reports of the Sudanese army's crossing the border and taking control of al-Fashqa region.

"If Sudan does not stop expanding into Ethiopian territories, Ethiopia will be forced to launch a counter-offensive," Ethio FM 107.8 quoting Foreign Ministry spokesman Ambassador Dina Mufti as saying.

A senior Sudanese military officer on Monday said they have retaken control of an area in the al-Fashqa border region with Ethiopia.

Dina said Sudan should not take Ethiopia's silence for weakness.

"Our forces are in stand-by 24/7 and are prepared to defend its sovereignty," he added.

Without naming a country, Dina blamed a third party for pushing Sudan to encroach the Ethiopian territory.

However, Ethiopian bloggers have accused Egypt of actively and clandestinely working to trigger an armed confrontation between Sudan and Ethiopia.

Egypt has been opposing Ethiopia's \$5billion hydro dam under construction on the Nile River near the border with Sudan.

SOMALIE :

Landmine blast kills 9 in Somalia

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/landmine-blast-kills-9-in-somalia/2091685>

At least nine people, including an infant and a woman, were killed when a landmine hit a vehicle carrying civilians in Somalia's Lower Juba region late on Monday, officials said.

The incident took place near the vicinity of Taabto, northeast of Dhobley town near the Somali-Kenyan border.

Abdi Asis Hussein Gedi, an official from Jubaland administration in the coastal town of Kismayo, told Anadolu Agency by phone that a vehicle traveling to the Dhobley town area was targeted by a landmine explosion, killing at least 9 civilians, including a woman and an infant.

Those responsible for this heinous attack against unarmed civilians must be brought to justice, he added.

Dhobley town is located 191 kilometers (130 miles) from Kismayo, the administrative capital of Jubaland.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, but Somali-based al-Qaeda affiliated group al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility for recent attacks in the Horn of Africa country.

The attack comes hours after four people were shot dead in Mogadishu's Waberi neighborhood on Monday.

Somalie: un consortium anglo-turc signe un accord pour construire et exploiter le port de Hoby
<https://www.agenceecofin.com/transports/1011-82276-somalie-un-consortium-anglo-turc-signe-un-accord-pour-construire-et-exploiter-le-port-de-hoby>

(Agence Ecofin) - En Somalie, l'Etat de Galmudug a conclu un accord avec le consortium anglo-turc Oriental Terminal, pour la construction d'un port à Hoby, proche du détroit de Bab el-Mandeb, un important point de passage maritime. Le gouvernement fédéral penchait plutôt pour le Qatar sur ce projet.

Le gouvernement de l'Etat de Galmudug, en Somalie, a signé un accord avec Oriental Terminal – consortium composé d'entreprises turques, britanniques et somaliennes – pour la construction et l'exploitation d'un port dans la ville côtière de Hoby. L'accord (paraphé à Londres au Royaume-Uni) a été annoncé par le ministre des Ports et de la Pêche de Galmudug, Abdisabir Nur Shurie, sur sa page Twitter (...)

****** L'AFRIQUE DU SUD ******

MADAGASCAR :

La plateforme avec Rajoelina en tête dans les 6 provinces

<https://www.madagascar-tribune.com/La-plateforme-avec-Rajoelina-en-tete-dans-les-6-provinces.html>

Les premières tendances des résultats des élections sénatoriales tenues vendredi sur le territoire national, par province, obtenues à partir des PV scannés sont publiées dans la nuit par la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI). Dans les 6 provinces, les candidats de la plateforme avec Andry Rajoelina dominant, suivis de près par les candidats du parti MMM de Hajo Andrianainarivelo, là où ce parti a présenté des candidats. Par contre, les indépendants peinent à obtenir des voix.

12 465 grands électeurs, composés des maires et des conseillers municipaux et communaux ont été appelés aux urnes dans la journée d'hier pour départager 14 candidats aux élections sénatoriales. Ils étaient répartis dans 114 bureaux de vote des 119 districts. Ils devaient voter pour 12 sénateurs, à raison de deux élus par province.

Les bureaux de vote ont été ouverts à 6h du matin dans la majeure partie et aucun incident majeur n'a été à déplorer lors du scrutin, si l'on en croit les membres de la Commission électorale nationale indépendante.

Outre KMF/CNOE qui a déployé ses observateurs électoraux à travers le pays, l'observatoire Safidy fait également partie de 55 observateurs ayant eu l'agrément de la CENI pour suivre de près le déroulement de ces élections. Dans une vidéo diffusée sur les réseaux sociaux, Safidy a affirmé avoir assisté à l'ouverture du bureau de vote du district d'Antananarivo Renivohitra, à Nanisana et a confirmé également la présence des délégués de candidats sur les lieux

Dans une déclaration faite à l'occasion de ces élections, le Premier ministre, Christian Ntsay, a particulièrement salué le calme de la population durant la campagne électorale précédant les élections sénatoriales et les a exhortés, à préserver la paix pour le bon déroulement du scrutin, et afin que notre pays puisse vivre dans la démocratie. « Ces élections revêtent une grande importance dans la vie d'une nation », a-t-il ajouté avant de faire appel à tous les grands électeurs d'accomplir leur devoir citoyen.

SOUTH AFRICA :

Parliament denies DA request for COVID-19 vaccine debate

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/parliament-denies-da-request-for-covid-19-vaccine-debate/>

The Democratic Alliance (DA) will undoubtedly not be pleased after failing in their efforts to have the COVID-19 vaccination plan debated in Parliament before the new year.

The Speaker of Parliament Thandi Modise has rejected a submission made by the Democratic Alliance (DA), seeking to hold an emergency sitting before 1 January 2021, to debate over the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccine debate to be held in February 2021

With Parliament closed, the DA believed that it should reopen for the purpose of getting answers from government on a COVID-19 vaccination plan. However the speaker seems to not have

considered the matter as urgent and suggested that it rather be held in February 2021, when Parliament resumes its work.

“The Speaker of the National Assembly Ms Thandi Modise has responded to a request by DA Chief Whip, Ms Natasha Mazzone, for an urgent debate on a matter of national public importance: Government rollout plan for Covid-19 vaccination,” Parliamentary spokesperson Moloto Mothapo said in a statement.

“Speaker believes the debate should take place in February 2021 when the Assembly reconvenes. An appropriate date will be determined by the NA Programme Committee (NAPC) in line with the rules on such debates”

Parliamentary spokesperson Moloto Mothapo
DA wants Ramaphosa to clarify COVID-19 vaccine plan

The party isn't buying assurances from government, even after President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the country had managed to pay the R327 million required towards the World Health Organisation's (WHO) COVAX facility.

The president said South Africa will be amongst the first in line to receive the ground-breaking treatment.

The DA had wanted Ramaphosa to give clarity on the country's efforts towards securing the vaccine and said it was concerned that government may fail at this.

“Coupled with reports that South Africa missed its second payment deadline for the World Health Organisation's vaccination programme; indications of large-scale PPE-corruption; and our government's generally poor track record when it comes to delivery, it is not unreasonable to be concerned that South Africans will be left behind while the rest of the world opens up their now Covid-free economies and resume normal life in 2021,” said the DA's Chief Whip Natasha Mazzone.

“As we approach the new year South Africans deserve to know the truth about the government's vaccination plans and what awaits our nation in 2021. We can not afford to get locked into a cycle of lock-downs that damage our economy and destroys lives and livelihoods,” she said.

BOTSWANA :

Botswana, Namibia call for calm amid tension over shooting of Namibian nationals
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-12/31/c_139632326.htm

GABORONE, Dec. 31 (Xinhua) -- Botswana and Namibia on Wednesday issued a joint statement calling for citizens to remain calm and patient after fatal shootings in November of three Namibian nationals and one Zambian national by the Botswana Defence Force.

In the statement by the two heads of state, the two sides underscored the deepening bilateral relations, and conveyed their commitment to resolving the matter expeditiously and amicably.

A joint investigation has been concluded and is under consideration by both governments, it said, adding that an incident-free future is envisaged and desired by the two sides, and that joint bilateral efforts will be put to avert any recurrence of similar incidents.

The killing of the four, suspected to be poachers by the Botswanan side, has sparked tensions between the two African neighbours with Namibian citizens engaging in protests. Some nearly turned violent, causing damage to property and disruption of cross-border movement.

Families of the deceased told media that they were fishermen and were crossing into the Botswanan side of the Chobe River to fish. Residents along the border have long relied on the river for their livelihood.

Botswana has over the past years seen increasing incidents of poaching in the area, has consequently deployed anti-poaching units from the army to patrol the area. Several fatal shootings

have occurred between the army and poachers. Earlier this year, one army officer was fatally shot.
Enditem

Botswana Launches National Space Program

<https://africanews.space/botswana-launches-national-space-program/>

Président du Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi a récemment lancé un ambitieux projet de satellite qui verra Botswana développer son propre programme spatial. Le programme conduira le pays d'Afrique australe à posséder un nanosatellite local.

Le lancement du programme spatial s'inscrit dans le cadre du programme de développement de Masisi visant à exploiter une économie basée sur la connaissance, car il a fièrement distingué l'Université internationale des sciences et technologies du Botswana pour sa réponse remarquable à son appel de ralliement. Il a mentionné que malgré les difficultés provoquées par la pandémie en cours, ce sont ces effets néfastes de la pandémie qui ont encouragé l'engagement à investir dans le projet de satellite et à l'exploiter.

«Cela prendra trois ans, exigera un engagement total et un dévouement désintéressé. Ce sera exigeant car c'est la première fois que le pays lance un satellite dans l'espace. Cependant, si nous capitalisons sur les données et les appliquons dans diverses industries (l'accent est actuellement mis sur l'agriculture), cela contribuerait à la croissance et au développement de la nation », a ajouté le président.

Le programme vise à lancer un nanosatellite d'observation de la Terre 3U dans l'espace dans les trois prochaines années avec l'ambition de lancer à l'avenir des satellites plus gros tels que 6U et 12U afin de créer une constellation. Ce programme sera domicilié à l'Université internationale des sciences et technologies du Botswana (BIUST) en collaboration avec des partenaires locaux, régionaux et internationaux.

Malgré la pandémie en cours, l'industrie spatiale africaine continue de croître, d'autres pays développant des programmes spatiaux et les investissements spatiaux augmentent. En juillet 2020, 19 pays africains avaient établi ou entamé le processus de création d'un programme spatial. Avec Botswana annonçant un programme spatial, cela porte le nombre à 20. De plus, le deuxième satellite éthiopien lancé hier en a fait le 42e satellite africain à être lancé.

NAMIBIA :

Appointment of Chinese advisor unlawful - Itula

<https://www.namibian.com.na/97611/read/Appointment-of-Chinese-advisor-unlawful---Itula>

INDEPENDENT Patriots for Change (IPC) leader Panduleni Itula says the appointment of a Chinese national as an exclusive advisor to the Kavango East regional governor was unlawful and should be withdrawn.

Kavango East regional governor Bonifatius Wakudumo in November appointed Charlie Min Xie as an exclusive member of his advisory committee.

This appointment sparked outrage across Namibia, with some residents of Kavango East planning a peaceful demonstration against the appointment.

Itula told The Namibian on Friday that the fact that Wakudumo failed to make reference to “any provision of any law empowering him and from whence he derived the appointing powers”, shows that the appointment was invalid.

He added that the governor had no right, in terms of the law, to appoint advisors.

Only the president, Itula said, is empowered to appoint advisors in terms of Appointment of Special Advisors Act, (Act 6 of 1990).

“There is no reference to the duties of the governor as responsible for economic development, contrary to the title thrust upon Mr. Xie. The duties of governors are representative in nature, not executive. If any advisor are to be appointed, and so required to assist a regional governor, such powers lies in the hands of the president,” he said.

However, the governor saw nothing wrong with Xie's appointment and his entire advisory committee.

In a statement issued on Friday, Wakudumo said he deemed it necessary to appoint a multi-disciplinary team to advise him on matters related to all-round socio-economic development investments.

He added that Xie and other 19 people to be appointed to the committee will serve on a voluntary basis.

“In recognition of my primary mandate and key performance area as the political head of government in the region, I deemed it both necessary and important to appoint a multi-disciplinary team of experts from various disciplines to advise me on matters related to all-round socio-economic developments and investments,” Wakudumo said.

He justified the appointment, saying Xie was a Namibian citizen and enjoys all rights accorded to other Namibians.

According to Wakudumo, Xie has been residing in Namibia for the past 25 years.

He said Xie was appointed as he possesses extensive knowledge in telecommunications and economics and experience in finance, manufacturing business models, textile, asset management and business management.

The Chinese national, according to Wakudumo, also has international links and experience “in getting investors to come to Namibia”, Wakudumo said.

ZIMBABWE :

Mwonzora takes charge of MDC-T

<https://www.thezimbabwemail.com/politics/mwonzora-takes-charge-of-mdc-t/>

HARARE – newly-elected MDC-T president, Mr Douglas Mwonzora, yesterday assumed his new role as opposition leader and immediately unveiled a new executive in which he retained his election rivals — Dr Thokozani Khupe, Mr Morgan Komichi and Engineer Elias Mudzuri.

This is despite the fact that the trio had earlier on rejected Mr Mwonzora's electoral victory, accusing him and his supporters of rigging.

This comes as MDC-T lawyer, Professor Lovemore Madhuku gave a legal opinion in which he averred that Mr Mwonzora was duly elected as president of the party and Dr Khupe could not lawfully nullify the election process once it had been placed in motion.

Prof Madhuku said once an independent election management body took over running of election and the first vote cast, all candidates including Dr Khupe were equal and could not unilaterally nullify the process except that election body charged with running of polls or a competent court of law.

“Once it is accepted that Douglas Mwonzora is presumed to be duly elected until his election is set aside by a competent court, it follows that there could not have been a valid meeting of the national council on 28 December to 2020 without that meeting having been convened by him or under his authority,” reads the legal opinion. Further, if it is accepted that the extraordinary congress was never cancelled at law, the meeting of 28 December 2020 could neither confirm, endorse or ratify a non-existent cancellation.” (...)

ZAMBIA :

President Lungu receives report on the shooting, fires Bonny Kapeso.

<https://www.mwebantu.com/2020/12/29/president-lungu-receives-report-on-the-shooting-fires-bonny-kapeso/25864/>

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has received a preliminary report on the killing of two citizens in Lusaka last week.

And President Lungu has made changes in the Police Service Command to allow for a speedy enquiry.

President Lungu said the report is not conclusive as yet and has asked the Inspector General of Police to expedite the investigations.

“Investigations into the matter have not been concluded. I, therefore, call upon witnesses, apart from those interviewed already to help Police. I don’t want the matter to be prejudiced, so let us allow investigators to do a professional job, regardless of who is involved,” said President Lungu.

Meanwhile, President Lungu has made changes to the Zambia Police Service command.

The President has given Inspector General of Police, Kakoma Kanganja a six month contract to transform the institution and regain people’s confidence.

“This is to enable you to conclude the investigations into the killing of two innocent Zambians and allow you to reorganise the Police Service with a view to restoring the eroding public confidence in the Service. This will form the basis for your performance appraisal for further consideration,” the letter from President Lungu to Kanganja reads in part.

President Lungu has since appointed Copperbelt Province Commissioner of Police, Charity Katanga as the new Deputy Inspector General of Police for operations.

The President has also appointed Northern Province Commissioner of Police, Richard Mweene as the new Deputy Inspector General of Police for administration.

President Lungu has further terminated the contract of Deputy Inspector General of Police for operations, Bonnie Kapeso while Deputy Inspector General of Police for administration, Eugene Sibote ‘s contract has not been renewed.

President Lungu has since transferred Eastern Province Commissioner of Police, Lackson Sakala to Lusaka Province to replace Nelson Phiri whose contract has not been renewed.

North Western Province Commissioner of Police, Elias Chushi has been transferred to the Copperbelt province while Muchinga Province Commissioner of Police, Joel Njase has been moved to North Western Province.

State House Deputy Commissioner of Police, Geza Lungu has been promoted to Commissioner of Police and moved to Eastern Province.

And President Lungu has promoted Airport Police Division Deputy Commissioner of Police Lizzy Peter Machina as Muchinga Province Police Commissioner.

Lilayi Training College Deputy Commissioner of Police, Jestus Nsokolo has been promoted as Commissioner of Police to head Northern Province.

President Lungu has also promoted Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police, Zambia Police Headquarters, Dr Charles Mbita as Deputy Commissioner of Police, Lilayi Training College and also promoted Senior Assistant Police Commissioner, Tazara Division, Lazarus Mbuzi to the position of Deputy Commissioner of Police for Central Province.

President Lungu has wished all the affected Officers God’s blessings.

This is according to a statement issued by Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations, Isaac Chipampe. (Picture:FILE)

MALAWI :

Phiri's appointment raises anger among Malawi soldiers

<https://malawi24.com/2020/12/31/phiris-appointment-raises-anger-among-malawi-soldiers/>

President Lazarus Chakwera's recent appointment of Paul Phiri as Deputy Commander of the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) has brought anger among soldiers.

Leaked conversations from WhatsApp circulating on internet reveal military officers are not happy and have described the decision as irregular which does not reflect the principles of change that many expected in the new government of Tonse Alliance.

NAMIBIE :

Govt to tighten Covid-19 rules

<https://www.namibian.com.na/97414/read/Govt-to-tighten-Covid-19-rules>

PRESIDENT Hage Geingob is set to announce a new raft of regulations today to combat the spread of the coronavirus, but a lockdown is unlikely to be introduced.

The pending presidential announcement today has left Namibians waiting to learn of the way forward in dealing with the country's spiking Covid-19 cases.

The government has for the past two months eased regulations as the infection rate dropped from 317 in a day at its peak at the end of August to 63 a day in mid-September (...)

According to a source at the MDF who was speaking under conditions of anonymity, Phiri who was at the time of appointment at the rank of Major General, does not have valid qualifications to assume the post of Deputy Commander of the Malawi Defence Force.

The officer said many soldiers are not happy with Phiri's appointment because of his oppressive leadership attitude.

The officer also disclosed that before an officer is appointed to the post of Deputy Commander, one is supposed to be promoted from the post of Major General to that of Lieutenant General, yet these procedures were not followed in Phiri's appointment.

"Many soldiers are disappointed that the president has been fooled to appoint such an incompetent and unqualified individual, some are even accusing the Chief of Staff of recommending Phiri for the position of Deputy Commander, there is a group that want to advance their political agenda and they are misleading the president," disclosed the source.

The source further alleged that rumours within the army are that Simbi Phiri who has been one of the major sponsors of the Malawi Congress Party and who is said to have built the house of President Chakwera influenced Phiri's appointment as Deputy Commander of the MDF.

"There is rumor that Simbi Phiri influenced the appointment of his name sake to the senior military position," said the source

One of the concerned officers went on to say that the president was supposed to consult with the defense council before making such an appointment, but he did not consult the council on Phiri's appointment, but, according to the source, the president was influenced by tribal consideration before making the appointment.

The source further said that the sad part was that Phiri was very close to the previous administration and he was behind the rumours that General Vincent Nundwe was planning to topple the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) administration a rumor that ended into Nundwe's dismissal as army general

The whistleblower said many soldiers are also not happy with Phiri because he is oppressive and alleged that he has been delaying the professional development of fellow officers.

According to the source, Phiri at one point organised and administered examinations for senior army officers called PROMEX, but out of all the 56 officers that participated, no one passed.

“He set the examinations, typeset the papers administered the examinations himself marked the papers alone and all the 56 officers that took the examinations failed, what type of person is this? All the 56 people could not have been intelligent to pass the examinations,” said the source. The soldiers have since written president Chakwera expressing their disappointment with the appointment of Phiri as the deputy army commander. A letter that has been circulating on the social media purportedly authored by some soldiers among other things says that the recent appointment of Phiri as deputy commander of the defense forces is a ‘grave breach’ of the trust that the soldiers had with the current administration.

According to the concerned soldiers, Phiri is a “beast, heartless, cruel, anti-social, selfish, barbaric and a nuisance to soldiers.” The letter goes to allege that Phiri is an opportunist and was part of a larger conspiracy by some lieutenants who are trying to advance their hidden agendas.

“His appointment will only bring unnecessary fear panic confusion and division among soldiers,” reads part of the letter.

The letter goes to warn Chakwera that the people that recommended the appointment of Phiri are slowly creating the president’s downfall in the 2025 presidential elections.

“If we were Chakwera and his lieutenants we could have recalled how soldiers rallied you and HRDC when in opposition from 2019 to 2020 in the streets of the country just to see things change while performing our constitutional mandate,” reads the letter.

On December 23, 2020, President Chakwera appointed Phiri as deputy MDF commander in accordance with the powers conferred on him under section 191 (2) of the Malawi Defence Act and Section 161 of the Constitution

ANGOLA :

European Union giving Angola US\$24.58 mln in economic aid
<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/12/31/20201231002/>

The European Union will give Angola 20 million euros (about US\$24.58 million) over the next 36 months to help the effort to make the Angolan economy more diverse and spur its recovery, Lusa reports.

The Portuguese news agency says the aid agreement was signed by Angolan Economy Minister Sérgio Santos and the EU chief representative in Angola, Jeannette Seppen.

The report says the money is due to be spent on education, training, farming and trade projects, among other areas.

Angola and the European Union intend to hold in the first half of next year a gathering of senior businesspeople and officials to discuss how to improve EU trade with and investment in Angola, Lusa says.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/european-union-giving-angola-us24-58-mln-in-economic-aid/>

Chinese builder hands over power line to Angolan authorities
<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/12/30/20201230003/>

Sinohydro Engineering Bureau No 4 Co. Ltd of China has formally turned over to the authorities in Angola the Soyo-Kapary power transmission line, which it had finished building according to plan on December 15, the China Daily state-owned newspaper reports.

Other news media reported before that the Soyo-Kapary power transmission line cost US\$1.05 billion.

China Daily reported the line would be among the longest of its type in Africa, carrying electricity for over 1,000 km across country to nine substations, supplying Luanda and northern Angola with power.

Work on building the Soyo-Kapary power transmission line began in 2014, the reports said.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinapl.org.mo/chinese-builder-hands-over-power-line-to-angolan-authorities/>

Le ministre de la Défense regrette la mort du lieutenant-général Manuel Faustino Lourenço

<https://www.angop.ao/fr/noticias/politica/ministro-da-defesa-lamenta-morte-do-tenente-general-manuel-faustino-lourenco/>

Luanda - Le ministre de la Défense nationale, des anciens combattants et vétérans de la patrie, João Ernesto dos Santos, a exprimé lundi sa profonde consternation face au décès du lieutenant-général Manuel Diogo Faustino Lourenço, survenu le 25 de ce mois, des suites de maladie.

Dans une note de condoléances, parvenue à l'Angop, le gouvernant souligne que l'illustre disparu était un combattant qui s'est très tôt consacré à la lutte pour la conquête et la préservation de l'indépendance nationale, de l'intégrité territoriale et de la paix, en assumant diverses fonctions, notamment celle vice-gouverneur de la province de Lunda Sul.

«En ce moment de douleur et de deuil, au nom du ministère de la Défense nationale, des anciens combattants et vétérans de la patrie, je présente à la Caisse de sécurité sociale des Forces armées angolaises (FAA) et à la famille endeuillée mes condoléances les plus attristées pour cet événement malheureux », lit-on dans le document.

MOZAMBIQUE :

Mozambique forces kill 37 insurgents in Cabo Delgado

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/rest-of-africa/mozambique-forces-kill-37-insurgents-in-cabo-delgado-3242226>

Mozambique security and defence forces last week killed 37 terrorists and retrieved 21 firearms in Cabo Delgado province, north of the country.

They also destroyed three vehicles, 10 motorcycles and 17 vessels used by the insurgents, authorities added.

“If they try to enter here again, they find a prompt response, as the one you have been giving them,” the country’s police general commander, Bernardino Rafael, told security and defence seventh battalion personnel that has been fighting the insurgents.

On Thursday, defence and security forces repulsed militants who attempted to invade Mute, a town close to Cabo Delgado’s natural gas megaproject.

An insurgency in Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado province that borders Tanzania has seen atrocities, including beheading of civilians, reported there.

The terrorist attacks began in October 2017 on police stations in Mocimboa da Praia District, then spread to other districts in the northern part of Cabo Delgado, notably in Macomia, Palma and Nangade. The violence also affected the electoral process, with the government imposing restrictions to campaigns in northern Cabo Delgado

Sichuan sending more medical missions to lusophone Africa

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/12/31/20201231003/>

The government of the southwestern Chinese province of Sichuan will send medical missions to Mozambique, Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau next year, the SCOL.com website reports.

The Chinese website says the Chinese National Health Commission arranged for the medical missions. Each of the 35 medical staff involved has completed five months of training.

The report quotes a Sichuan health official, Zeng Huajun, as saying such missions play an important part in the Chinese diplomatic effort, and put China in a unique position on the international stage.

The three forthcoming missions will be, respectively, the 23rd Sichuan will have sent to Mozambique, the 19th it will have sent to Cabo Verde and 18th it will have sent to Guinea-Bissau, SCOL.com says.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/sichuan-sending-more-medical-missions-to-lusophone-africa/>

GUINEA BISSAU :

Guinea-Bissau: President to meet with parliamentary bench leaders

<https://www.macaubusiness.com/guinea-bissau-president-to-meet-with-parliamentary-bench-leaders/>

The president of Guinea-Bissau, Umaro Sissoco Embaló, is to meet on Wednesday with the leaders and vice-leaders of the parliamentary benches, after threatening to dissolve the parliament and showing dissatisfaction with the behaviour of some members of parliament.

Last week, the head of state met with five of the six parliamentary parties to discuss the possibility of dissolving the parliament and also convened the Council of State.

Both the political parties and the Council of State considered that there was no political crisis, which justified the dissolution of the National People's Assembly or early elections, even though the decision was only taken by Umaro Sissoco Embaló.

Six political parties are represented in the National Popular Assembly, but only the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the Movement for Democratic Alternation (Madem-G15), the Social Renewal Party (PRS) and the United People's Assembly – Democratic Party of Guinea-Bissau (APU-PDGB) have benches.

The Union for Change and the New Democracy Party, the other two parties represented in parliament, have only one member each.

The meeting, which will take place under the presidency, is scheduled to start at 4.45 p.m. local time (same time in Lisbon).

CABO VERDE / CAP VERT :

Cabo Verde: Local mayor found shot in home to undergo surgery in Praia hospital

<https://www.macaubusiness.com/cabo-verde-local-mayor-found-shot-in-home-to-undergo-surgery-in-praia-hospital/>

The mayor of Santa Catarina de Santiago, José Alves Fernandes, was found shot in his home in Assomada on Tuesday and was transferred to the Central Hospital of Praia.

The municipal source said that the mayor was immediately taken to Santiago Norte Regional Hospital, where he received medical care but was then transferred to Agostinho Neto Hospital, in the city of Praia, where he is to undergo surgery.

The case is already being investigated by the Cape Verdean Judiciary Police.

José Alves Fernandes, better known as Beto Alves, thus becomes the second Cape Verdean mayor to be shot in almost a year, after the then mayor of Praia, Óscar Santos.

Beto Alves was re-elected for a second term in Santa Catarina, with the support of the Movement for Democracy (MpD, a ruling party), while Óscar Santos, also with the support of the MpD, was defeated in the local elections on 25 October by Francisco Carvalho, of the African Party of Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV).

At the time, the then leader of the country's largest municipality suffered an arm injury, with a fractured right humerus, and was subsequently discharged, but the case is still under investigation by the judicial police.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE :

Chinese Embassy gives São Toméan TV station video equipment

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/12/30/20201230001/>

China has donated video equipment to the national television broadcaster in São Tomé e Príncipe, TVS, the Chinese Embassy in São Tomé says.

The Embassy issued a written statement saying TVS has done much to strengthen Sino-São Toméan ties since diplomatic relations were restored in 2016.

The Embassy says Chinese Ambassador to São Tomé e Príncipe Xu Yingzhen and TVS Director José Bouças attended the turnover of the equipment.

The statement quotes Ms Xu as saying she hopes TVS will keep serving as a bridge between São Toméans and Chinese, and that her Embassy will back new exchanges by São Toméan and Chinese news media.

Mr Bouças voiced thanks for Chinese support to TVS in the form of gifts of equipment and opportunities for training, and promised more TVS coverage of Chinese news to inform São Toméans about modern China and its culture, the Chinese Embassy says.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinapl.org.mo/chinese-embassy-gives-sao-tomean-tv-station-video-equipment/>

São Toméan enterprises urged to exhibit merchandise in China

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/12/29/20201229004/>

Chinese Ambassador to São Tomé and Príncipe Xu Yingzhen has called for São Toméan enterprises to exhibit at events in China such as the China International Import Expo.

The Chinese Embassy in São Tomé issued a written statement quoting Ms Xu as saying so in a meeting with Rafael Branco, the head of the São Toméan trade and investment promotion agency.

Ms Xu told Mr Branco that they should work together to encourage São Toméan enterprises to export more of their specialties to China, and to avail of the function of Macao as an economic and trade cooperation platform between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Mr Branco told Ms Xu that his agency would work on increasing Sino-São Toméan cooperation in the sectors of infrastructure and fishing, and would promote exports to China of São Toméan coffee, cocoa, pepper and other farm produce, according to the Chinese Embassy statement.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/sao-tomean-enterprises-urged-to-exhibit-merchandise-in-china/>

TIMOR-LESTE :

Timor-Leste hoping for Chinese investment in infrastructure

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/12/28/20201228003/>

Timorese Ambassador to China Abrão dos Santos has said his country is hoping to attract more investment by Chinese enterprises in its infrastructure, and in its fishing and tourism industries, which are important for its economic development, the China-Africa Friendly Economic and Trade Development Foundation says.

A written statement issued by the foundation quotes Mr dos Santos as saying so in a meeting with its head, Zhang Yi.

Mr dos Santos said Timor-Leste welcomed visits by parties of Chinese businesspeople arranged by the foundation, which the Timorese Embassy in Beijing would expedite.

The foundation will play its part in increasing Sino-Timorese economic engagement and in meshing the abilities of Chinese and Angolan enterprises, its statement quotes Mr Zhang as saying.

(Source) Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao):

<https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/timor-leste-hoping-for-chinese-investment-in-infrastructure/>

***** AFRIQUE DU NORD *****

EGYPT :

Retrial of Mubarak-era finance minister adjourned

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201231-retrial-of-mubarak-era-finance-minister-adjourned/>

Egypt's criminal court adjourned until 22 February the retrial of former Finance Minister Youssef Boutros Ghali over corruption charges that date back to his time in office during the era of former President Hosni Mubarak, who was ousted in 2011 following a popular uprising.

In April 2013, Ghali was sentenced in absentia to life in prison; his lawyer later asked for a retrial. Ghali is charged with squandering some 20 million Egyptian pounds (around \$1.27 million) in public funds.

The former official fled to Britain after the 2011 popular uprising, during which Mubarak-era officials were accused of corruption that was believed to have contributed to high poverty rates and a wide income gap between the political and financial elite and civilians.

Egypt: 11m women receive health checks under Sisi's initiative

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201230-egypt-11m-women-receive-health-checks-under-sisi-initiative/>

The Egyptian Minister of Health, Hala Zayed, announced that 11.3 million women have been examined since the launch of Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's initiative to support women's health. Zayed stated that the initiative is sustainable and targets women over 18 nationwide with the aim of detecting non-communicable diseases (diabetes, blood pressure, weight and height measurement, body mass index and obesity) and raising awareness of risk factors that cause these types of illnesses.

The initiative aims to educate the population about reproductive health, family planning, healthy lifestyle and raise awareness of breast self-examination methods.

The minister indicated that the initiative, which was launched in July, includes free medical examination and raising awareness about public healthcare for all Egyptian women.

ALGERIE :

OPEP+: l'Algérie a joué un rôle pivot en 2020 pour rééquilibrer le marché

<http://www.aps.dz/economie/115109-energie-2020-l-algerie-un-role-pivot-au-sein-de-l-opec-pour-reequilibrer-le-marche-petrolier>

ALGER- L'Algérie a joué, en 2020, un rôle pivot dans le rapprochement des visions au sein de l'Opec et ses alliés (Opec+) afin de parvenir à une action commune visant à rééquilibrer le marché

pétrolier qui a connu, durant l'année qui s'achève, une chute drastique de la demande et des prix suite à la pandémie du Covid-19.

Ce rôle a été assuré notamment à travers la présidence par l'Algérie en 2020 de quatre organisations énergétiques internationales et régionales, à savoir l'OPEP, l'Organisation des Etats arabes exportateurs de pétrole, l'Organisation des Etats africains exportateurs de pétrole et l'Organisation des Etats exportateurs de gaz .

L'Algérie a, dans ce cadre, mené des efforts considérables pour réduire la production et rééquilibrer le marché pétrolier depuis le début de la crise en mars dernier à travers des discussions marathoniennes avec tous les acteurs concernés.

Ces efforts ont été menés dans le cadre de la Déclaration de coopération (Doc) signée le 10 décembre 2016, suite aux discussions qui avaient eu lieu pendant la 170ème réunion extraordinaire de la Conférence ministérielle de l'Opep, tenue à Alger en septembre 2016.

La guerre des prix déclenchée en 2014 avait trouvé son terme avec le Consensus d'Alger, qui a été confirmé en novembre 2016 dans la réunion tenue à Vienne, souligne l'expert pétrolier international, Mourad Preure. (..)

Uyghur rights cause tensions between China, US embassies in Algeria

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201230-uyghur-rights-cause-tensions-between-china-us-embassies-in-algeria/>

The Chinese embassy in Algeria protested against an "offensive" US embassy statement on the Uyghur issue, saying it was constitutes "an interference in China's internal affairs."

On Sunday, Washington's embassy in Algeria posted a Facebook link to a press report about two restaurant owners in the US who are attempting to raise awareness among their customers of the ongoing persecution of Uyghurs at the hands of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Xinjiang province.

On Monday evening, the Chinese embassy in Algeria replied with another post in protest against the US diplomatic mission, saying that it was an attempt "to discredit China and interfere in its internal affairs."

"The US embassy should have focused on strengthening cooperation with the country in which it operates (Algeria), but they are still thinking about a way to discredit other countries and interfere in states' internal affairs, which is confusing," Beijing said.

The post pointed out that "according to survey data published by the American Pew Research Center, 75 percent of American Muslims believe that there is serious racial discrimination against them in US society."

Since 1949, China has controlled the region of East Turkestan, home of the Uyghur Turkic Muslim minority, naming it "Xinjiang", meaning "new frontier".

In August 2018, a United Nations Human Rights Committee reported that China is holding nearly one million Uyghur Muslims in secret camps in East Turkestan.

However, China says that the centres described by the international community as "concentration camps" are "vocational training centres" and aim to "purge the minds of the detainees of extremist ideas."

Official statistics indicate that there are 30 million Muslims in China, including 23 million Uyghurs, while unofficial reports estimate the number of Muslims at nearly 100 million.

For years, the issue of Uighur Muslims has been a source of tension between China and Washington. Months ago, the US House of Representatives approved a draft resolution banning the import of goods produced in the Xinjiang region, after Beijing allegedly used the Uyghur forced labour in production chains.

Le président de la République tient une séance de travail avec le chef d'Etat-major de l'ANP
<http://www.aps.dz/algerie/115185-le-president-de-la-republique-tient-une-seance-de-travail-avec-le-chef-d-etat-major-de-l-anp>

ALGER - Le président de la République, Chef suprême des forces armées, ministre de la Défense nationale, Abdelmadjid Tebboune a tenu mercredi une séance de travail avec le chef d'Etat-major de l'Armée nationale populaire (ANP), le général de Corps d'Armée, Saïd Chanegriha, qui s'est félicité à nouveau du retour du Président au pays et lui a présenté un rapport sur la situation interne et les derniers développements dans les pays voisins et au niveau des frontières, indique un communiqué de la Présidence.

"Le président de la République, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Chef suprême des forces armées, ministre de la Défense nationale a tenu aujourd'hui une séance de travail avec le chef d'Etat-major de l'Armée nationale populaire (ANP), le général de Corps d'Armée, Saïd Chanegriha, qui s'est félicité à nouveau du retour du Président au pays et lui a présenté un rapport sur la situation interne et les derniers développements dans les pays voisins et au niveau des frontières", précise la même source.

MAROC :

Morocco accuses Algeria of 'spreading rumours' on Western Sahara
<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201230-morocco-accuses-algeria-of-spreading-rumours-on-western-sahara/>

Moroccan Prime Minister, Saad-Eddine El-Othmani, yesterday accused Algeria of "recruiting its official media apparatus with the aim of spreading false news" about the situation in the Western Sahara."

El-Othmani was quoted by Hespress as saying that the Algerian move was "part of a systematic campaign to smear the Moroccan government."

"The destabilising actions carried out by the Polisario Front have not been supported by any country except Algeria," the prime minister said, adding that the campaign was being addressed and contained by the Moroccan national press and diplomatic apparatus.

The Polisario Front, he pointed out, had continued its provocations in the vicinity of the border security fence "after the royal forces liberated the Guerguerat crossing."

"More than 75 countries from different regions of the world have appreciated the peace process carried out by the Royal Armed Forces, as well as reopening the Guerguerat crossing for civil and commercial movement," El-Othmani continued.

Message de condoléances et de compassion de SM le Roi à la famille de feu Mohamed Louafa
<http://www.mapexpress.ma/actualite/activites-royales/message-condoleances-compassion-sm-roi-famille-feu-mohamed-louafa/>

Rabat – Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI a adressé un message de condoléances et de compassion à la famille de M. Mohamed Louafa, décédé dimanche.

Dans ce message, SM le Roi exprime aux membres de la famille du défunt et ses proches, à sa grande famille politique nationale, en particulier au Parti de l'Istiqlal, et à l'ensemble de ses amis, Ses vives condoléances et Ses sincères sentiments de compassion.

En cette douloureuse circonstance, SM le Roi dit également Se remémorer, avec estime, des qualités louables du regretté, notamment celles de dévouement et de loyauté dont il a fait preuve au service des intérêts suprêmes de la Nation dans les différentes hautes fonctions et responsabilités qu'il a occupées avec compétence, outre son patriotisme sincère, sa fidélité indéfectible au glorieux Trône alaouite et son fort attachement aux constantes de la Nation et à ses valeurs sacrées.

Tout en partageant la peine de la famille du défunt suite à cette douloureuse épreuve, la volonté divine étant imparable, le Souverain implore le Très-Haut de lui accorder patience et réconfort, de rétribuer feu Louafa pour les services louables rendus à sa Patrie et pour les bonnes actions qu'il a accomplies, de l'entourer de Sa vaste miséricorde et de l'accueillir dans son vaste paradis parmi ses serviteurs vertueux.

TUNISIE :

Tunisia president to launch dialogue to 'correct the revolution' process

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201230-tunisia-president-to-launch-dialogue-to-correct-the-revolution-process/>

Tunisian President Kais Saied will launch in coming weeks a national dialogue that will include political parties and youth from all regions "to correct the revolution that has deviated from its goals a decade after its outbreak", the presidency said on Wednesday, Reuters reports.

The presidency said the dialogue proposed by the powerful UGTT union seeks economic, social and political reforms as the country is witnessing a wave of protests against bad public services, widespread unemployment and corruption.

Ten years ago, massive protests against poverty, marginalization and unemployment brought down the regime of the late President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The Tunisian revolution triggered the Arab Spring uprisings in Egypt, Libya and Syria.

Despite that, Tunisia is an example of peaceful transition in a region struggling elsewhere with violence and upheaval. Later, its economic and social situation worsened and the country became on the verge of bankruptcy and the protests increased.

"The dialogue aims to correct the process of the revolution, which has been diverted from its true path that the people set 10 years ago, which is employment, freedom and dignity.", the presidency said in statement.

It did not give further details.

Nourredine Taboubi the head UGTT Union which led to reach a consensus between secularists and Islamists in 2013 said this initiative "is a glimmer of hope to correct the process of the revolution".

UGTT union was among Tunisia's National Dialogue Quartet that won the Nobel Peace prize in 2015 for helping build democracy in the birthplace of the Arab Spring.

LYBIA :

Libya's foreign minister: 'We asked for Russia's support to evacuate foreign fighters'

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201231-libyas-foreign-minister-we-asked-for-russias-support-to-evacuate-foreign-fighters/>

Libyan Foreign Minister Mohamed Taha Siala announced on Wednesday that his country has asked Russia for help evacuating foreign fighters from the country.

Siala's statement came during a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow. The visit by the Libyan official to Russia was courtesy of an official invitation from the Russian Foreign Ministry to discuss the political and military developments in Libya.

The Libyan minister announced: "We asked for Moscow's assistance to evacuate foreign fighters from Libya. We expressed our concern over seizing oil export revenues in a bank account that Libyans cannot benefit from."

Libyan and international reports condemned the presence of Russian Wagner mercenaries among the foreign fighters supporting General Khalifa Haftar in his fight against the internationally-recognised Libyan government forces.

Commenting on the role of Cairo, Siala asserted: "The visit of the Egyptian delegation (to Libya) came very late. We would have preferred that the Egyptian side was present alongside all the other parties to contribute to building confidence between them."

He continued: "I invite the parties who believe that the solution to the Libyan crisis has to be military to reconsider their stances, support the implementation of the peaceful solution and help to end the presence of foreign fighters."

Libyan Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha discussed on Sunday "common security challenges and ways to enhance security cooperation," with an Egyptian security delegation in the Libyan capital of Tripoli.

Siala affirmed that: "The Government of National Accord (GNA) has handed over the required budget to the Electoral Commission to hold the upcoming elections on Libya's Independence Day (24 December) in 2021."

He also stressed that his country's government is responsible for the security and stability of the capital, expressing: "We hope that no party will attempt to inflame the war again in Libya."

Russia participated in a meeting of the UN Security Council in mid-December, during which all member states called unanimously for withdrawing foreign fighters from Libya. The call came amid local and international criticism against Moscow for sending the Wagner mercenaries to support the aggression of Haftar's militia in the country.

For years, Libya has been undergoing an armed conflict as Haftar's militias, with the support of Arab and Western countries, contest the internationally-recognised government over legitimacy and authority in the oil-rich country.

Russia's Lavrov warns against call to war by Libyan warlord Haftar

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/russias-lavrov-warns-against-call-to-war-by-libyan-warlord-haftar/news>

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned on Wednesday against resumption of hostilities in Libya.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow following a meeting with his Libyan counterpart Mohamed Siala, Lavrov promised to provide "maximum support" to ongoing peace efforts in Libya. Referring to a recent call by Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar to continue a civil war that had been halted in October in a truce with the country's internationally recognized government, Lavrov said the Libyan sides should be encouraged to dialogue and stopped from fighting.

He underlined that the current cease-fire in the North African nation was secured thanks to cooperation between Russia and Turkey, both of which also contributed to organizing the Berlin peace conference on Libya, the recommendations of which were later approved by the UN Security Council.

Libya has been torn by a civil war since the ouster of late ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

The Tripoli-based legitimate government was founded in 2015 under a UN-led agreement, but efforts for a long-term settlement failed due to a military offensive by forces loyal to Haftar. He launched an onslaught on the capital Tripoli in April 2019 but was pushed back.

A cease-fire was agreed on in late October, and negotiations for an interim setup before presidential and parliamentary elections on Dec. 24, 2021 are continuing.

Lavrov slammed what he called "geopolitical experiments of the West" for being responsible for the possibility of conflict in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as for trying to take advantage of the processes of the Arab Spring.

He voiced concern over efforts for a settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli issue, saying "the process of finding a political solution to conflict faces real risks of failure."

"The situation is very serious. Here, as in other cases, a responsible, leading role of the UN is needed in order to restart direct negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, with the support of the quartet of international mediators and Arab States," the minister said.

****** AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST ******

COTE D'IVOIRE :

Décrispation de la situation socio-politique: Alassane Ouattara annonce la reprise du dialogue bilatéral avec Bédié dans les jours à venir
<https://news.abidjan.net/h/685817.html>

"Le Président Bédié et moi nous nous sommes parlé à plusieurs occasions ces derniers temps et nous sommes convenus de reprendre le dialogue bilatéral dans les prochains jours, certainement dans la deuxième quinzaine du mois de janvier" a déclaré Alassane Ouattara à l'entame du Conseil des ministres de ce mercredi 30 décembre à Abidjan-Plateau.

Selon le chef de l'Etat, ceci permettra d'évoquer un certain nombre de points en suspens et de montrer aux concitoyens que nous sommes sur la voie de la consolidation de la paix pour notre pays. "Nous voulons un pays en paix et compte tenu des progrès qui sont réalisés, avec la paix nous irons encore plus vite" a indiqué Alassane Ouattara.

Lors de son discours à la nation après sa réélection, le Président de la République Alassane Ouattara a réitéré sa volonté de rencontrer le leader de l'opposition Henri Konan Bédié dans le cadre d'un dialogue " sincère et inclusif dans le respect de l'ordre constitutionnel". Les deux personnalités se sont effectivement rencontrées au Golf Hôtel d'Abidjan le mercredi 11 novembre. Mais le président du PDCI a subordonné le second round de ces négociations à la satisfaction de certaines conditions qu'il juge nécessaires (..)

MALI :

'France stuck in dead end war in Mali'

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/france-stuck-in-dead-end-war-in-mali/2094300>

French journalist weighs on France's presence in Mali, no terrorist threat against France has ever come from Africa's Sahel

French daily L'Opinion in its Tuesday editorial launched a diatribe against the French military presence in Mali, a day after the death of three French soldiers who belonged to the Barkhane force. "Quentin, Dorian and Tanerri were 21, 23 and 28 years old [...] Like 50 other soldiers before them, these three young French people will not return from Mali, where, for almost eight years, our country has been stuck in a war without end," wrote Jean-Dominique Merchet in the editorial titled Deaths in Mali: It's enough!

The three French soldiers were killed in eastern Mali after their armored vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED), the French presidency said on Monday.

The incident took place on an escort mission between Hombori and Gossi, near the border with Niger and Burkina Faso.

Merchet said no terrorist threat against France has ever come from the Sahel, according to the intelligence chiefs. "The conflicts can only be settled by negotiation with the terrorist groups, which are in reality insurgencies reviving from the pre-colonial history of the Sahel."

He added: "Perhaps it was essential to intervene in Mali as Francois Hollande did in 2013. The mistake was to stay there, because now we no longer know how to leave. Or rather how to dress in a presentable way what will be the admission of failure".

"In their dream of greatness, our leaders find it difficult to understand that the West is no longer winning these wars and that the era of military expeditions is behind us," the French columnist said. At least 47 French soldiers have died since the launch of Operation Barkhane in 2013. More than 5,000 French soldiers are deployed under Barkhane which is led by France alongside the G5 Sahel countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad to fight against armed terrorist groups in the region, particularly Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Daesh/ISIS in the Greater Sahara (EIGS).

"We will therefore leave Mali, as we did in Afghanistan (after the death of 90 soldiers) and as the Americans are doing. The Taliban are still there," Merchet wrote.

TOGO :

Decentralization: Togo to build 40 new town halls

<https://www.togofirst.com/en/public-services/2812-7043-decentralization-togo-to-build-40-new-town-halls>

(Togo First) - To advance its decentralization process, Togo intends to build 40 new town halls. This was decided at the latest council of ministers.

Besides building the new facilities, Lomé wants to train 1500 municipal counselors across the country, in addition to drawing a development plan for 10 municipalities.

Togo will, in this framework, benefit from the support of Europe (Germany's especially, through GiZ's ProDeGol initiative).

It should be noted that the following municipalities are already working on their development plan: Golfe 1, Haho 3, Kozah 2, and Dapaong

SENEGAL :

Covid-19: Macky Sall appelle les Sénégalais à «respecter les gestes barrières»

<https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20201230-covid-19-macky-sall-appelle-les-s%C3%A9n%C3%A9galais-%C3%A0-respecter-les-gestes-barri%C3%A8res>

Au Sénégal, l'augmentation du nombre de cas de coronavirus inquiète le président Macky Sall. Il a lancé mardi 29 décembre un énième appel à « respecter des gestes barrières », alors qu'il constate que le port correct du masque et les distanciations physiques sont négligés par les citoyens sénégalais.

BURKINA FASO :

Burkina Faso : Roch Kaboré, investi Président, appelle à « oser le changement »

<https://www.burkina24.com/2020/12/28/burkina-faso-roch-kabore-investi-president-appelle-a-osser-le-changement/>

Le Président du Faso, Roch Kaboré, a prêté serment le lundi 28 décembre 2020 à Ouagadougou. Il a été réélu à l'issue de l'élection présidentielle du 22 novembre 2020. Dans son discours d'investiture, le président, réélu pour cinq ans (2020-2025), a brossé les grandes lignes de son nouveau mandat à savoir la lutte contre le terrorisme, la réconciliation nationale et la lutte contre la corruption.

« Je jure devant le peuple burkinabè et sur mon honneur, de préserver, de respecter, de faire respecter et de défendre la Constitution et les lois, de tout mettre en œuvre pour garantir la justice à tous les habitants du Burkina Faso ».

C'est après cette formule prononcée par le Président élu que Roch Kaboré a été réinstallé dans ses fonctions par le Président du Conseil constitutionnel, Kassoum Kambou, le lundi 28 décembre 2020 à Ouagadougou. « Loin d'être une simple formalité, le serment que vous venez de prêter marque le début officiel de votre mandat en tant que chef de l'Etat », a indiqué Kassoum Kambou.

Burkina Faso : Le gouvernement est dissous

<https://www.burkina24.com/2020/12/30/burkina-faso-le-gouvernement-est-dissous/>

Le Président du Faso Roch Marc Christian Kaboré a mis fin ce 30 décembre 2020 aux fonctions du Premier ministre Christophe Dabiré. Il a également dissous son gouvernement. Cette décision intervient deux jours après la prestation de serment du Chef de l'Etat, réélu pour un second mandat à l'issue des élections couplées du 22 novembre 2020. S'ouvre désormais la période de l'attente de la formation du nouveau gouvernement de ce début de mandat.

BENIN :

BENIN: Government announces the creation of an electricity generation company

<https://www.afrik21.africa/en/benin-government-announces-the-creation-of-an-electricity-generation-company/>

In Benin, the government wants to set up the Beninese Electricity Production Company (SBPE). According to the authorities of this West African country, the future company will have to contribute "effectively" to the development of renewable energies.

In Benin, 75% of households do not have access to electricity. To make up this deficit, the government is banking on renewable energies. After the opening of the energy sector to private investors in February 2020 (for the production, transmission, distribution and marketing of electricity), the country announces the creation of the Beninese Electricity Production Company (SBPE) and the approval of its statutes.

The SBPE will be publicly owned. The new structure will be responsible for generating and selling electricity through the operation of its own assets, notably the Maria-Gléta 2 thermal power plant, commissioned in August 2019; the Maria-Gléta 3 thermal power plant under construction and the 25 MWp photovoltaic solar power plant built as part of the Defissol project by the French group Eiffage RMT. The SBPE will also buy the solar energy produced by the private operators and sell it to the Société béninoise d'énergie électrique (SBEE), whose main mission will be refocused on the distribution of electricity.

The government of Benin is also banking on solar home systems to improve access to electricity in the country. In August 2020, the companies Greenlight planet and African renewable systems and solutions (ARESS) began supplying solar kits to Benin. The project aims to electrify 5,000 households in "disadvantaged" areas.

In July 2020, 11 companies were selected through a call for proposals from the Off-Grid Clean Energy Facility (OCEF) for the construction of 8 solar mini-grids. The various projects will increase Benin's electricity production capacity by 13.4 MW and provide reliable and quality energy to 128 localities through solar mini grids and 39 localities through solar home systems. Both projects are

supported by Millennium Challenge Account, through its Millennium Challenge Account Benin II (MCA-Benin II) programme.

NIGERIA :

Boko Haram landmines kill 11 Nigerian security personnel

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/rest-of-africa/boko-haram-landmines-kill-11-nigerian-security-personnel-3242686>

Landmines planted by Boko Haram jihadists have killed 11 security personnel, including four soldiers in northeast Nigeria, security sources said Tuesday.

Seven hunters recruited to help the military fight the Islamist insurgents were killed on Tuesday when their vehicle hit a landmine in the village of Kayamla, outside Borno State's capital Maiduguri.

"Seven hunters died in the explosion and nine others are badly injured," Babakura Kolo, the head of a local anti-jihadist militia, told AFP.

"Their vehicle hit a landmine as they were pursuing Boko Haram insurgents," he added.

Another local militiaman confirmed the incident. (..)

PDP must be united to secure electoral victories in 2023 — Atiku

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/12/pdp-must-be-united-to-secure-electoral-victories-in-2023-atiku/>

Former Vice President and 2019 Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, has said the party must be united to secure electoral victories in the 2023 general elections. The Wazirin Adamawa also said it is only a politically naive and vision less politician that will dump PDP for the All Progressives Congress (APC), adding that governor Dave Umahi of Ebonyi state will one day "be courageous enough to tell Ebonyians the true reasons why he left for a sinking ship APC."

Breaking: President Buhari signs N13, 588trn 2021 Budget

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/12/breaking-president-buhari-signs-2021-budget/>

President Muhammadu Buhari on Thursday in Abuja signed the 2021 Appropriation Bill of N13,588,027,886,175 into law. The president's action followed the earlier passing of the bill by the National Assembly on Dec. 21 during an emergency session convened for the purpose of passing the budget.

NIGER :

Vote count under way in Niger's presidential election

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/28/ballots-counting-begins-in-niger-presidential-election>

Vote counting has begun in Niger after an election that could lead to the country's first peaceful transition of power since its independence from France 60 years ago.

Almost 7.5 million people cast their vote on Sunday to choose a successor to President Mahamadou Issoufou who is stepping down after two five-year terms leading the country of 23 million.

Results are expected within five days and it could take two weeks for them to be ratified by the constitutional court.

A winner will need 50 percent of the vote plus one to avoid a runoff, otherwise, a second round involving the top two candidates takes place in February.

GHANA :

We have no evidence Mahama won presidential election – Ayine

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/We-have-no-evidence-Mahama-won-presidential-election-Ayine-1144208>

The Member of Parliament for Bolgatanga East, and member of the NDC legal team, Dr Dominic Ayine, has stated that the party has no evidence that John Dramani Mahama won the 2020 presidential elections.

The former Deputy Justice Minister in an interview on GHONE TV said the party has all times maintained that no candidate in the just ended December 7 election garnered enough votes to cross the 50 per cent margin to be declared president-elect by the Electoral Commission chairperson.

“We never said that we won the [presidential] election, if we were convinced that we won this election we would have stated that in the petition,” he said Thursday morning.

According to Dr Ayine, party members who were part of the electoral process and have had access to the evidence of vote padding in favour of president-elect Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo are the ones who have intimated that the election was stolen from Mr Mahama.

Mr Mahama who was flagbearer of the NDC in the recent election filed a petition at the Supreme Court on Wednesday to formally challenge the results which saw President Akufo-Addo attaining the Presidency.

Mr. Mahama in an address Wednesday night said: “Some people have asked me what I hope to gain by challenging the results of this election.

“Let me tell you: I want, perhaps, the very same thing that my opponent wanted when in 2012 he challenged the results of that election; I want the removal of doubt. I want for all of us to know that our elections should be free, fair, and safe—and that we do not have to settle for a process that leaves us confused, and with more questions than answers. I want a Ghana where institutions of state can be held to account”.

He stressed: “Where we can stand on principle and demand transparency without the risk of losing our lives. When people lose their lives—as seven people did—in the course of our elections, we are moving backwards not forward; we are unravelling the very fabric of our democracy; we are risking the loss of three decades worth of progress.

“When today we see armed military and militia in our collation centres and election outcomes declared at the point of a gun, for us who have witnessed our country's journey through all its post-independence travails, we wonder if we have truly exorcised the ghosts of our torturous past. We must continue to be a nation in which our young citizens have faith in our institutions, trust the rule of law, and rely on the presence of peace because there is justice”.

GAMBIA :

High Court judge accused of coercing police, assisting in disobeying court orders

<https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/high-court-judge-accused-of-coercing-police-assisting-in-disobeying-court-orders>

A High Court judge has been accused of coercing and manipulating the police in Brikama to release his niece, who flaunted court orders and found to be in contempt by the Brikama Magistrate Court. Bundung High Court Judge Justice Momodou S.M. Jallow is said to have used his position to allegedly intimidate the Brikama Police to illegally arrange bail for his niece, Neneh Jawneh Thompson, who allegedly refused to respect another judge's order.

Justice Momodou S.M. Jallow is now facing an unprecedented lawsuit at the High Court in Banjul for violating a constitutional right to fair hearing. The suit was brought against Justice Momodou S.M. Jallow by Gambian international journalist, Sam Phatey. Phatey is a contributor on TRT World and TVC News Africa as political, security and global affairs analyst.

According to the High Court complaint filed by lawyers for Mr. Phatey, Justice Momodou S.M. Jallow's interference in a case that is not within his jurisdiction and not in his court violated Mr. Phatey's constitutional right.

The complaint further stated that the embattled high court judge also assisted his niece in disobeying legitimate court orders in an ongoing court matter in Brikama.

"We are seeking a declaration from the High Court that the conduct of Justice Momodou S.M. Jallow is tantamount to violating my client's right to a fair hearing. The lady was in custody because of a court order and the only way she could come out of that custody is by another court order," said Malick H.B. Jallow, lawyer for Phatey.

"There are two forms of detention. There is police detention and there is court detention. If it is a police detention, then the police can grant you bail, but in the case of a court ordered detention, only the court can release you. In this case, there was no application filed in court to seek the lady's release," Lawyer Jallow added. (..)

TCHAD :

Tchad : le message à la Nation du chef de l'État prévu à 20h
https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Tchad-le-message-a-la-Nation-du-chef-de-l-Etat-prevu-a-20h_a99038.html

Le président Idriss Deby s'adressera ce jeudi 31 décembre 2020 à la nation pour son traditionnel message de vœux à l'occasion du nouvel an. Son message sera retransmis par la Télévision et Radio nationale ce soir, plus précisément à 20 heures, et relayé par les médias.

Le dernier message à la nation du chef de l'État remonte au 14 avril 2020 suite à la pandémie de coronavirus. Idriss Deby s'est également exprimé le 24 mars 2020, toujours dans le cadre de la crise sanitaire.

L'année dernière, Idriss Deby a axé son message du nouvel an sur la paix et la cohabitation pacifique, en mettant en garde les "vendeurs d'illusions qui voudraient faire imploser la concorde nationale". Il avait rendu hommage aux forces de défense et de sécurité, remercié les partenaires, évoqué la menace terroriste au Sahel, et les défis liés au développement, au progrès et à la modernité. Le président avait également émis le souhait que le scrutin se tienne au premier semestre 2020, avant de rassurer les fonctionnaires sur leurs revendications pour atténuer la crise sociale.

CENTRAFRIQUE :

Centrafrique : Bozizé dément sa fuite du territoire
https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Centrafrique-Bozize-dement-sa-fuite-du-territoire_a98960.html

Alwihda Info | Par Info Alwihda - 30 Décembre 2020 L'ancien président François Bozizé a démenti mardi avoir quitté le territoire centrafricain pour se réfugier au Cameroun. Il s'est exprimé à travers un communiqué de son parti "KNK". Accusé par le gouvernement centrafricain de vouloir déstabiliser le pays, Bozizé affirme qu'il est "toujours et bel et bien sur le territoire national".

À la veille du scrutin électoral qui a eu lieu dimanche 27 décembre, François Bozizé s'est exprimé dans un audio, affichant son soutien à la rébellion et appelant les citoyens à ne pas voter. Le scrutin a toutefois pu se tenir avec l'appui notamment de la MINUSCA.

La Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique centrale (CEEAC) a appelé ses membres à exprimer leur solidarité avec la Centrafrique, en envoyant notamment des troupes armées.

RCA : l'ONU condamne le meurtre de trois Casques bleus de la MINUSCA
<https://news.un.org/fr/story/2020/12/1085382>

Le jour de Noël et à 48 heures des élections, des éléments non-identifiés ont attaqué les forces de défense et de sécurité centrafricaines et la Mission des Nations Unies en Centrafrique (MINUSCA) à Dékoa (250 kilomètres au nord de Bangui), dans la préfecture de Kémo, et à Bakouma (850 kilomètres au nord-est de la capitale), dans la préfecture du Mbomou.

Trois Casques bleus burundais de la MINUSCA ont été tués et deux autres blessés à Dékoa. António Guterres a fermement condamné ces « attaques odieuses » et ces meurtres de Casques bleus. Le Président de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, Vokna Bozkir, a également

condamné des « actes haineux (qui) ne compromettront pas les efforts de l'ONU à soutenir le peuple centrafricain », ni la détermination de l'Organisation à atteindre la paix et la sécurité dans ce pays d'Afrique centrale.

« Les responsables de ces crimes doivent rendre des comptes », a, pour sa part, déclaré, le chef des opérations de paix de l'ONU, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, sur Twitter. Un avis partagé par l'expert indépendant des Nations Unies sur la RCA, qui a assuré qu'« aucune personne ne jouira de l'impunité ».

« Le Secrétaire général rappelle que les attaques contre les forces de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies peuvent constituer un crime de guerre », a déclaré son porte-parole, Stéphane Dujarric dans un communiqué publié dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi. M. Guterres a exhorté les autorités centrafricaines à enquêter et à traduire rapidement en justice les responsables de ces attaques. Le Secrétaire général et le Président de l'Assemblée générale ont présenté leurs condoléances aux familles des Casques bleus décédés, ainsi qu'au peuple et gouvernement du Burundi. Ils ont également souhaité un prompt rétablissement aux blessés.

La Centrafrique doit organiser des élections présidentielle et législatives dimanche 27 décembre. Le pays d'Afrique centrale a été déstabilisé depuis plus d'une semaine par des agissements de groupes armés qui cherchent à perturber les scrutins à venir. La MINUSCA et ses partenaires internationaux ont condamné ces actes de violence et de déstabilisation. L'opération de paix onusienne a renforcé ses patrouilles dans la capitale et dans les différentes provinces du pays, en appui aux forces centrafricaines, et dans le cadre du plan de sécurisation des élections.

Jeudi, 300 Casques bleus du contingent rwandais de la Mission des Nations Unies au Soudan du Sud (MINUSS) sont arrivés en RCA en renfort de la MINUSCA pour renforcer la sécurisation du processus électoral.

Par la voix de son porte-parole, le Secrétaire général a réaffirmé l'engagement continu des Nations Unies, en étroite collaboration avec les partenaires nationaux, régionaux et internationaux, à soutenir les efforts de consolidation de la paix et de la stabilité en RCA.

RCA : Archange Touadera donné vainqueur par son parti

<https://fr.africanews.com/2020/12/31/rca-archange-touadera-donne-vainqueur-par-son-parti/>

Alors que l'Autorité Nationale des élections commence tout juste à publier les premiers résultats de la présidentielle du 27 décembre en République Centrafricaine, Archange Touadera est déjà donné vainqueur par ses partisans.

Ces derniers se baseraient sur les données émanant de leurs représentants dans les circonscriptions électorales.

" Les tendances font état d'une victoire du professeur Touadéra dès le premier tour, signe de reconduction de la légitimité qui est conférée à notre candidat par le peuple", a déclaré Simplicie Mathieu Sarandji, directeur national de campagne du chef de l'Etat sortant, jeudi lors d'une conférence de presse au siège du Mouvement Cœurs Unis (MCU).

Mercredi, l'opposition centrafricaine a demandé l'annulation du double scrutin présidentiel et législatif de dimanche.

"Il n'est pas du ressort de tel ou tel candidat de demander par des canaux non conformes l'annulation et la reprise des élections", a répondu Mathieu Sarandji.

Les premiers résultats partiels sont attendus le 4 janvier.

RCA : la coalition de l'opposition demande l'annulation des élections

<https://corbeaunews-centrafrique.com/rca-la-coalition-de-lopposition-demande-lannulation-des-elections/>

Bangui, République centrafricaine, mercredi, 30 décembre 2020 (Corbeaunews-Centrafrique). La coalition de l'opposition a demandé mercredi l'annulation des élections présidentielle et législatives du 27 décembre en Centrafrique, perturbées par des groupes rebelles, un scrutin pourtant salué comme "crédible" et "légitime" par le gouvernement et la communauté internationale.

Dans un pays occupé aux deux tiers par des groupes armés, des milliers de personnes ont été empêchées de voter ou privées de leur carte d'électeur, jamais arrivée en raison de l'insécurité due à une offensive rebelle et à la guerre civile qui ravage la Centrafrique depuis près de huit ans.

Sur un total de 71 sous-préfectures, "29 n'ont pas voté", avait déclaré lundi le ministre de l'Administration du territoire. "Et dans six autres sous-préfectures, il n'y a eu qu'un vote partiel", avait ajouté Momokoama Théophile, rapporteur général de l'Autorité nationale des élections (ANE)

RCA : 300 Casques bleus en renfort de la MINUSCA pour sécuriser les élections

<https://news.un.org/fr/story/2020/12/1085362>

A la veille de Noël, 300 soldats de la paix rwandais sont arrivés par deux avions à Bangui en provenance du Soudan du Sud où ils servent d'habitude au sein de la Mission des Nations Unies dans le pays (MINUSS). Ce renfort s'inscrit dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du plan intégré de sécurisation des élections présidentielle et législatives qui doivent avoir lieu dimanche. Il vise à renforcer les capacités de la MINUSCA et à répondre aux défis sécuritaires que traversent actuellement la Centrafrique.

« Ces Casques bleus supplémentaires renforceront le dispositif de sécurisation des élections de la Force de la MINUSCA qui consiste, en partie, à déployer des troupes dans les circonscriptions électorales en appui aux forces de défense et de sécurité centrafricaines », a précisé la mission onusienne dans un communiqué de presse publié vendredi.

Le Représentant spécial du Secrétaire général de l'ONU en RCA, Mankeur Ndiaye, a salué l'arrivée de ces Casques bleus supplémentaires, rappelant que « le professionnalisme des soldats de la paix rwandais est connu de tous ».

M. Ndiaye, qui est également chef de la MINUSCA, a remercié le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, António Guterres, pour avoir sollicité et obtenu l'autorisation du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies pour renforcer en urgence le dispositif actuel de l'opération de paix en Centrafrique alors que des groupes armés tentent de perturber les élections de dimanche.

« Il s'agit d'une preuve supplémentaire de l'engagement total de la communauté internationale aux côtés du peuple centrafricain, pour la tenue des élections le 27 décembre dans le respect des délais constitutionnels », a dit le Représentant spécial.

La police de la MINUSCA poursuit ses patrouilles

M. Ndiaye a de nouveau condamné les alliances entre acteurs/partis politiques et groupes armés, et réitéré l'appel de la communauté internationale demandant à ces derniers de mettre fin immédiatement aux attaques qui visent à empêcher les électeurs de se rendre aux urnes.

« La MINUSCA continuera à exécuter son mandat de sécurisation des élections, en appui aux forces de défense et de sécurité centrafricaines », a souligné le Représentant spécial, réaffirmant que la volonté de la population et l'exercice de son droit civique seront respectés. « La communauté internationale est unanime, elle a une position commune : aller vers les élections le 27 décembre. », a rappelé vendredi M. Ndiaye lors d'une conférence de presse.

Avec l'appui de la section justice et correction de la MINUSCA, la police de la mission onusienne (UNPOL) accompagne les forces de sécurité intérieures centrafricaines (FSI) dans toutes leurs missions de police judiciaire, notamment pour les enquêtes ouvertes suite aux récentes violences

pré-électorales. En collaboration avec ONU Femmes, UNPOL a ouvert une ligne verte téléphonique pour recueillir le signalement de violences à l'encontre des femmes candidates et électrices. Plus de 1.700 appels ont été reçus à ce jour.

Vendredi 25 décembre, jour de Noël, UNPOL poursuivait ses patrouilles avec les FSI dans la capitale Bangui et dans plusieurs régions afin de protéger les lieux de cultes et rassurer la population.

Plus de 55.000 personnes ont fui les violences ou par crainte d'attaque (OCHA)

Les affrontements armés et les tensions observées depuis plus d'une semaine dans plusieurs régions du pays ont de graves conséquences pour la protection de la population centrafricaine, alerte l'ONU.

Selon le Bureau de la coordination des affaires humanitaires des Nations Unies (OCHA), l'insécurité et les craintes d'attaques par des groupes armés ont déjà semé la panique parmi la population et poussé plus de 55.000 personnes à fuir, augmentant davantage leur vulnérabilité. Des groupes armés ont également augmenté leurs menaces et leurs attaques contre des acteurs humanitaires, Au cours de la semaine, plus de 17 incidents contre le personnel et les biens humanitaires ont été enregistrés par le bureau d'OCHA en RCA. En outre, une ambulance et un véhicule d'un district sanitaire ont été détournés et un personnel médical a été blessé. Cette situation a empêché des centaines de milliers de personnes vulnérables vivant dans l'ouest et le centre du pays de recevoir une aide d'urgence, en particulier médicale.

« Je condamne fermement ces actes de violence, qui contribuent à augmenter la souffrance et le traumatisme de la population centrafricaine, et j'exhorte les éléments armés à arrêter immédiatement leurs attaques à l'encontre du personnel humanitaire, à respecter leurs obligations en vertu du droit international humanitaire et à protéger les personnes comme les infrastructures civiles », a déclaré, jeudi, la Coordonnatrice humanitaire en RCA, Denise Brown, dans un communiqué.

Malgré l'insécurité et les contraintes d'accès, les partenaires humanitaires persévèrent pour fournir une assistance vitale dans tout le pays, à travers le déploiement d'équipes médicales d'urgence et le transport aérien d'intrants sanitaires et nutritionnels essentiels.

« Les acteurs humanitaires sont résolus à rester dans les communautés auprès des populations malgré les violences, qui doivent immédiatement cesser », a déclaré Mme Brown.

La Coordonnatrice humanitaire a également appelé les donateurs à augmenter le financement d'urgence de la réponse humanitaire en RCA, y compris pour les services aériens humanitaires des Nations Unies. 2,8 millions de personnes ont besoin d'assistance et de protection en Centrafrique. Le Plan de réponse humanitaire pour l'année 2021 requiert 444,7 millions de dollars pour venir en aide à 1,8 million de personnes.

CAMEROUN :

Cameroun : Paul Biya harmonise l'âge de départ à la retraite des fonctionnaires

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-Paul-Biya-harmonise-l-age-de-depart-a-la-retraite-des-fonctionnaires_a98998.html

Le président de la République Paul Biya a signé mercredi un décret n° 802 portant harmonisation de l'âge de départ à la retraite des fonctionnaires. Le décret prévoit que l'âge de départ à la retraite des fonctionnaires est à compter du 1er janvier 2021, harmonisé à 60 ans pour le personnel des catégories A et B et à 55 ans pour le personnel des catégories C et D.

La mesure est étendue aux personnel bénéficiant à la date d'entrée en vigueur du décret, d'une prolongation formelle d'activité en cours de validité.

Le décret abroge les dispositions antérieures. Cette harmonisation de l'âge de départ à la retraite était longtemps attendue par les fonctionnaires camerounais. C'est donc comme une injustice qui vient d'être corrigée par le président de la République.

CONGO BRAZZA :

Congo- brazza : Le président confirme le scrutin présidentiel malgré les tensions économiques
https://www.mediacongo.net/article-actualite-81101_congo_brazza_le_president_confirme_le_scrutin_presidentiel_malgre_les_tensions_economiques.html

Le président congolais Denis Sassou a prononcé ce mercredi 23 décembre son traditionnel message sur l'état de la nation, devant le Parlement réuni en congrès. Il a dépeint une situation économique difficile, mais qui n'empêche pas d'organiser la prochaine élection présidentielle au plus tard le 21 mars conformément aux délais constitutionnels.

Dans une salle du Palais des congrès, dans le respect de la distanciation physique, le chef de l'Etat a, pendant une heure, décrit une économie plombée par la baisse des cours du pétrole. Une économie qui n'a toujours pas gagné le pari de la diversification.

« Les recettes principales (du pays) sont passées de 4.152 milliards de FCFA en 2014 à 1.469 milliards de FCFA à fin décembre 2020, soit une baisse de 65% », a déclaré Denis Sassou Nguesso. Malgré cette situation économique peu reluisante, le dirigeant congolais tient à respecter les délais constitutionnels concernant l'organisation de la présidentielle de 2021.

« Nos difficultés de l'heure ne peuvent pas nous amener à emprunter des chemins hasardeux et dangereux de l'anti-constitutionnalité. La prochaine élection présidentielle devrait avoir lieu au plus tard le 21 mars 2021 », a-t-il annoncé.

De nombreuses voix de l'opposition se sont levées ces derniers temps pour appeler au report de ce scrutin affirmant que les conditions d'une élection crédible sont loin d'être réunies. RFI / MCP, via mediacongo.net

******* GLOBALISATION *******

UNION AFRICAINE :

Darfour : la Mission de l'Union africaine et des Nations Unies fermera ses portes le 31 décembre
<https://news.un.org/fr/story/2020/12/1085192>

Dans une résolution adoptée à l'unanimité, les membres du Conseil ont décidé que le retrait de tous les effectifs militaires et civils de cette mission, créée en 2007 dans la région soudanaise du Darfour, commencerait le 1er janvier 2021 et devrait être achevé avant le 30 juin 2021, à l'exception des personnes indispensables à sa liquidation.

Le Conseil autorise, pour la durée du retrait et de la liquidation de la MINUAD, le maintien d'une unité de garde composée d'effectifs existants de la MINUAD, afin de protéger le personnel, les installations et les biens de l'opération.

Selon la résolution, le Conseil prie le gouvernement soudanais de respecter pleinement les dispositions de l'Accord sur le statut des forces jusqu'au départ du Soudan de l'élément final de la MINUAD, en particulier les dispositions relatives à la sûreté et à la sécurité de la MINUAD.

Ces dispositions stipulent que le gouvernement devra prendre les mesures nécessaires pour protéger les membres de la MINUAD et du personnel associé, leur équipement et leurs locaux. Le gouvernement devra aussi veiller à ce que les bases d'opérations restituées par la MINUAD soient utilisées à des fins exclusivement civiles.

Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU engage aussi le gouvernement soudanais à conclure rapidement ses enquêtes actuelles sur le pillage de bases d'opérations de la MINUAD précédemment transférées.

Assurer un retrait ordonné et sûr

Le gouvernement devra, en outre, coopérer pleinement avec l'ONU et l'Union africaine pendant le retrait des effectifs et la liquidation de la MINUAD afin d'assurer le retrait « ordonné et sûr » de l'Opération.

Dans le cadre du processus de transition et de retrait de la MINUAD, le Conseil demande par ailleurs à la MINUAD d'établir avec l'équipe de pays des Nations Unies, les dispositions devant permettre à celle-ci de surveiller les activités résiduelles de la coopération programmatique qui avait été engagée par la MINUAD en 2020 mais qui n'a pas encore été mise en œuvre en raison de la pandémie de Covid-19.

La MINUAD est remplacée, dès le 1er janvier 2021, par la Mission intégrée des Nations Unies pour l'assistance à la transition au Soudan (MINUATS), créée par le Conseil en juin dernier par sa résolution 2524 (2020). Cette nouvelle mission sera chargée de soutenir la consolidation de la paix, la protection des civils et le rétablissement de l'Etat de droit.

RDC: Union Africaine, la Turquie alloue 50 000 USD d'appui logistique au Panel des experts de la présidence congolaise

<https://zoom-eco.net/a-la-une/rdc-union-africaine-la-turquie-alloue-50-000-usd-dappui-logistique-au-panel-des-experts-de-la-presidence-congolaise/>

Le gouvernement de la République de Turquie accorde une contribution à hauteur de 50 mille dollars américains pour doter, en équipements, les bureaux du Panel chargé d'accompagner le Chef de l'Etat, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, à la présidence de l'Union Africaine (UA). L'ambassadeur de la Turquie en République Démocratique du Congo, Salih Boğaç Güldere, l'a signifié, à l'issue d'un entretien, le lundi 28 décembre 2020, avec le coordonnateur du panel des experts, le Pr Alphonse Ntumba Luaba.

Dans un communiqué, l'ambassade turque indique que cette contribution est une manifestation du désir du gouvernement turc d'accompagner la République Démocratique du Congo dans tous les domaines.

Le même communiqué souligne l'attachement de la Turquie à l'Union Africaine, aux grands projets durant le mandat de la République Démocratique du Congo à l'Union Africaine et au troisième Sommet Afrique-Turquie. Patrick BOMBOKA

CHINA :

Le ministre chinois des AE se rendra en Afrique la semaine prochaine
<http://french.peopledaily.com.cn/Chine/n3/2020/1231/c31354-9804581.html>

Le conseiller d'Etat et ministre des Affaires étrangères de la Chine, Wang Yi, effectuera des visites officielles au Nigéria, en République démocratique du Congo, au Botswana, en Tanzanie et aux Seychelles du 4 au 9 janvier 2021 à l'invitation des ministres des Affaires étrangères de ces cinq pays.

Wang Wenbin, porte-parole du ministère des AE, a fait cette annonce mercredi à Beijing.

Le ministre chinois des Affaires étrangères a choisi l'Afrique pour sa première visite à l'étranger chaque année depuis 1991, a expliqué Wang Wenbin, ajoutant que les visites de Wang Yi continuaient cette belle tradition, qui témoigne la grande importance que la Chine a toujours attachée aux relations sino-africaines.

Depuis le début de l'épidémie de COVID-19, la Chine et l'Afrique se sont unies pour lutter contre ce virus, illustrant leur profonde amitié. Dans ces circonstances, les visites de Wang Yi témoignent également la volonté et la détermination sincères de la Chine dans l'approfondissement des relations amicales avec les pays africains dans l'ère post-épidémie, a poursuivi le porte-parole.

Selon Wang Wenbin, 2021 marquera la dernière année de mise en œuvre des résultats du Sommet de Beijing du Forum sur la coopération sino-africaine (FOCAC). Au cours de ses visites, Wang Yi fera progresser la mise en œuvre de l'important consensus atteint par les dirigeants chinois et africains et les résultats du Sommet de Beijing et du Sommet extraordinaire Chine-Afrique sur la solidarité contre le COVID-19.

Les visites du ministre des Affaires étrangères visent également à soutenir les pays africains dans la reprise économique et la lutte contre l'épidémie et à promouvoir la construction conjointe de l'initiative "la Ceinture et la Route" pour bâtir une communauté sino-africaine plus soudée possédant un avenir partagé, a ajouté Wang Wenbin.

China and E.U. Leaders Strike Investment Deal

<https://www.thezimbabwemail.com/world-news/china-and-e-u-leaders-strike-investment-deal/>

Chinese and European Union leaders agreed on Wednesday to make it easier for companies to operate on each other's territory, a significant geopolitical victory for China at a time when criticism of its human rights record and handling of the pandemic have left it increasingly isolated.

By Jack Ewing and Steven Lee Myers

But the landmark pact faces political opposition in Europe and Washington that could ultimately derail it, illustrating the difficulties of dealing with an authoritarian superpower that is both an economic rival and a lucrative market.

A large faction in the European Parliament, which must ratify the agreement before it can take effect, opposes the accord on the grounds that it does not do enough to stop human rights abuses in China. In addition, a top aide to President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. has signaled that the incoming administration is not happy with the deal.

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany has made the agreement a priority because of its importance to German carmakers and other manufacturers with large operations in China.

The pact loosens many of the restrictions imposed on European companies operating in China, including a requirement that they operate through joint ventures with Chinese partners and share sensitive technology.

The agreement also opens up China to European banks and contains provisions intended to curtail secret government subsidies. Foreign companies often complain that the Chinese government secretly subsidizes domestic firms to give them a competitive advantage.

The agreement will "significantly improve the competitive environment for European companies in China," Hildegard Müller, the president of the German Association of the Auto Industry, said in a statement before the announcement. "It will provide new impetus for a global, rules-based framework for trade and investment."

China's leader, Xi Jinping, also made reaching the agreement a priority, authorizing negotiators to make enough concessions to persuade the Europeans to move ahead.

Wednesday's announcement was preceded by a video call that included Mr. Xi and Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, to agree in principle on a deal.

European officials said that a breakthrough came in mid-December when China, in a significant concession, agreed to make a stronger commitment to observe international standards on forced labor. China also agreed to step up its efforts to fight climate change.

Ms. von der Leyen said the agreement would provide "unprecedented access to the Chinese market for European investors, enabling our businesses to grow and created jobs."

"It will also commit China to ambitious principles on sustainability, transparency and non-discrimination," she said in a statement.

Concluding the pact now is a diplomatic victory for China, which has seen its international standing battered over its handling of the coronavirus pandemic and its crackdowns in Hong Kong and the predominantly Muslim province of Xinjiang.

Those issues — and wariness of Chinese pledges truly to open up to foreign investment — became the focus of opposition to the agreement as the final details were ironed out. For the Chinese, the deal demonstrated that the country does not face significant diplomatic isolation over its handling of human rights.

Source: New York Times

INDIA :

Missiles, drones, defence shield — India has a series of military trials planned for 2021

<https://theprint.in/defence/missiles-drones-defence-shield-india-has-a-series-of-military-trials-planned-for-2021/575840/>

New Delhi: India has a series of military tests and trials planned for 2021, including that of the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) shield, an Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) system for submarines, and drones, besides a number of missiles, including a BrahMos with an 800-km range. Sources in the defence and security establishment said one of the key systems to go under trial in the coming year would be the AIP, which is aimed for integration with India's fleet of six Scorpene submarines during refit. The trials for the indigenous AIP, which will allow conventional submarines to stay under water for a longer duration, is to begin in the first quarter of the new year, the sources added.

Another important trial that will take off is the one for phase 2 of the BMD, which aims to secure the country from all kinds of incoming missiles, including nuclear, and flying objects, through a multi-tier defence system. Phase 1 of the programme was completed last year.

Also on the agenda is the full-fledged trial of the indigenous Rustom 2 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), which is scheduled to begin in the first half of 2021, after much delay.

No link between Indians on 2 stranded ships and border conflict, says China

<https://theprint.in/diplomacy/no-link-between-indians-on-2-stranded-ships-and-border-conflict-says-china/573914/>

Beijing: China said on Friday that there was no "link" between the situation of Indian crew on two stranded ships at Chinese ports and its strained relations with India and Australia.

The External Affairs Ministry on Thursday said in New Delhi that two cargo vessels with a total of 39 Indians on board have been on anchorage in Chinese waters as they were not allowed to unload their cargo though some other ships have managed to do so.

"There is a considerable amount of stress on the crew members on account of this unprecedented situation," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

Srivastava said bulk cargo vessel MV Jag Anand is on anchorage near Jingtang port in Hebei province of China since June 13 and it has 23 Indian sailors.

Another vessel, MV Anastasia with 16 Indian nationals as its crew, is on anchorage near Caofeidian port in China since September 20, waiting for discharge of its cargo, he said at a media briefing.

"Our Embassy in Beijing has been in constant touch with provincial and central government authorities in China, requesting that the ships be allowed to dock and/or the crew be allowed to be changed," he said.

Asked about India's concern relating to the Indian crew members of the ships and whether China's decision on this issue has related to the current situation between India, China and Australia, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing on Friday "we stated repeatedly that China has clear stipulations on quarantine measures"

USA :

RCA : l'ambassade des États-Unis condamne les attaques contre les acteurs humanitaires

<https://corbeaunews-centrafrique.com/rca-lambassade-des-etats-unis-condamne-les-attaques-contre-les-acteurs-humanitaires/>

L'ambassade des États-Unis en République centrafricaine (RCA) est gravement préoccupée par les niveaux croissants de violence, d'insécurité et de criminalité qui provoquent une peur généralisée au sein de la population et entravent les opérations humanitaires dans toute la RCA.

Nous appelons les acteurs armés à respecter les principes humanitaires d'humanité, de neutralité, d'indépendance et d'impartialité. Nous exhortons les acteurs armés à mettre fin à toutes les attaques contre le personnel humanitaire, à respecter leurs obligations en vertu du droit international humanitaire et de l'Accord politique pour la paix et la réconciliation de 2019, et à permettre aux agences humanitaires un accès sans entrave aux personnes, aux fournitures et aux installations afin qu'elles puissent poursuivre leur travail vital. L'incapacité de respecter ces principes du droit international est inadmissible à un moment où près de 2,8 millions de Centrafricains ont un besoin urgent d'assistance humanitaire.

Mme Lucy Tamlyn, Ambassadeur des États-Unis en RCA, a déclaré : « Je suis profondément troublée par les informations faisant état de milliers de Centrafricains fuyant leurs maisons en réponse à la violence, ainsi que par les rapports de pillage et de violence contre les acteurs humanitaires locaux et internationaux. Les États-Unis exhortent les groupes armés et les criminels à cesser les hostilités et à permettre aux humanitaires de poursuivre leur travail vital. Les États-Unis seront toujours aux côtés de ceux qui choisissent la paix. »

Le gouvernement des États-Unis est le plus grand donateur humanitaire à la RCA, fournissant annuellement plus de 177 millions de dollars (soit 95 000 000 000 CFA) d'aide vitale aux personnes déplacées, aux réfugiés et à d'autres populations touchées par le conflit et dans le besoin.

ONU / UN :

Ouganda: L'ONU met en garde contre une crise alimentaire touchant environ 1,3 million réfugiés
<https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique/ouganda-lonu-met-en-garde-contre-une-crise-alimentaire-touchant-environ-1-3-million-r%C3%A9fugi%C3%A9s/2087901>

Environ 1,3 million de réfugiés pourraient être confrontés à une crise alimentaire en Ouganda, en raison de l'impact négatif de la pandémie du Coronavirus sur l'économie, ont averti les Nations Unies.

Le directeur du Programme alimentaire mondial des Nations Unies (PAM) en Ouganda, Al-Kheder Dalum, a déclaré dans un communiqué rendu public jeudi que les femmes et les enfants sont les plus touchés par la crise alimentaire.

"1,26 million de réfugiés en Ouganda font face à une crise alimentaire à cause de la baisse du niveau des aides", a-t-il ajouté.

Dalum a souligné que la pandémie de la Covid-19 ne devrait pas être un prétexte pour que le monde tourne le dos aux réfugiés en cette période difficile. Des millions de personnes ont cherché refuge à Ouganda depuis le Burundi et le Soudan du Sud, selon lui.

Il est à noter que l'Ouganda, situé en Afrique de l'Est, est connu pour être le pays qui accueille le plus grand nombre de réfugiés dans le continent africain.

*Traduit de l'arabe par Malèk Jomni

COVID-19 – Apparition en Afrique de nouveaux «variants» : L'Oms sonne l'alerte
<https://www.lequotidien.sn/covid-19-apparition-en-afrique-de-nouveaux-variants-loms-sonne-lalerte/>

A la suite de l'apparition en Afrique de nouveaux «variants» du Covid-19, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (Oms) appelle les pays à la vigilance.

La récente apparition dans la région africaine de nouveaux «variants» du Covid-19 semble avoir une transmissibilité plus forte. L'alerte est de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (Oms) qui appelle les pays à renforcer la surveillance et l'analyse génomique à travers le Réseau africain de laboratoires de séquençage du génome afin de détecter toute nouvelle mutation et de renforcer les

efforts pour enrayer la pandémie. Dans un communiqué, l'Oms informe que l'Afrique du Sud a récemment détecté un nouveau variant du Sars-Cov2, qui semble se transmettre plus facilement. Et il est, d'après l'Oms, probablement lié à l'augmentation actuelle d'infections au Covid-19 dans le pays. D'ailleurs, davantage d'analyses sont en cours pour déterminer la signification épidémiologique de cette mutation. Le Nigeria procède aussi à plus d'investigations sur le variant identifié dans des échantillons collectés en août et octobre. Selon la directrice régionale de l'Oms pour l'Afrique, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, «l'apparition de nouveaux "variants" du Covid-19 est un phénomène courant. Néanmoins, ceux avec une vitesse supérieure de transmission ou une potentielle pathogénicité élevée sont préoccupants. Des enquêtes essentielles sont en cours pour pleinement comprendre le comportement des nouveaux virus mutants et adapter la riposte en conséquence». Elle ajoute : «Alors que la surveillance et la détection du Covid-19 sont des éléments cruciaux de la riposte à la pandémie, les mesures de santé publique telles que le lavage des mains, la distanciation physique et le port du masque demeurent essentielles pour limiter les infections. Les mesures actuelles de prévention sont aussi efficaces pour les nouveaux "variants" de Sars-Cov2.» L'Oms rappelle qu'en septembre 2020, elle et les Centres pour le contrôle et la prévention des maladies (Africa Cdc) ont lancé un réseau de 12 laboratoires en Afrique pour renforcer le séquençage du génome du Sars-Cov2. Et à la date du 23 décembre, renseigne le document, 4 948 séquences ont été produites dans la région, représentant uniquement 2% des 295 mille 101 séquences réalisées dans le monde jusqu'à présent. La même source révèle que l'Afrique du Sud, qui est à l'origine de la plupart des 4 948 séquences, a identifié 35 lignées du Sars-Cov2, et le Nigeria 18. Poursuivant, l'Oms fait savoir que les nouveaux «variants» sont apparus alors que les infections au Covid-19 sont en augmentation dans les 47 pays de la région africaine de l'organisation, approchant le pic atteint en juillet 2020. Au cours des 28 derniers jours, souligne l'Oms, l'Algérie, le Botswana, le Burkina Faso, la République démocratique du Congo, l'Ethiopie, le Kenya, la Namibie, le Nigeria, l'Afrique du Sud et l'Ouganda ont enregistré les plus hauts nombres de nouveaux cas, représentant 90% de toutes les infections de la région africaine.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Jeudi 31 décembre 2020